

Lebanon calls on UN to double size of peacekeeping force

The Lebanese Government is calling for the size of the United Nations force in the border zone with Israel to be doubled and its armour strengthened. There are fears that even when all the peace-keeping troops are stationed in

southern Lebanon they will not be strong enough to wrest control from the military groups and return the zone to the authority of the Beirut Government. Both the Palestinians and the Israelis are said to be fortifying their positions.

Israelis and PLO fortify positions

From David Watts
Beirut, April 3

Doubts about the ability of the United Nations peace-keeping force to carry out its task and indications that all sides in southern Lebanon are fortifying their positions have brought new demands to increase the numbers of the peacekeeping force and strengthen its mandate.

A United Nations spokesman and the right-wing Voice of Lebanon radio said today that the Palestinians were moving reinforcements into the north of Tyre and into Nabatiya further east. A spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) said: "Everyone is strengthening positions. Israelis and United Nations forces alike are taking no chances. The Israelis are digging in and bringing in reinforcements. We're doing the same."

In the face of the hardening position in the south, the slow pace of the United Nations deployment and their inability to take key points held by the Palestinians, the Lebanese Government has now taken the steps proposed by the right wing. They are saying that if the United Nations is to be able to return to the Beirut Government authority over southern Lebanon—something which it has not been able to exercise for years—the strength of the United Nations force must be doubled and it must be given the firepower of a deterrent strike force rather than that of helpless peacekeepers.

Mr Kamel Assad, speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, in a

message to Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, has asked a doubling of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) will fail in its mission if the force is not strengthened. He appealed to the world organization to bolster the size and equipment of its forces.

At present the French and Swedish forces, which are stationed in the Tyre area and around the Khardali bridge further east, are armed only with light machine guns mounted on jeeps, though some armoured cars have been shipped from France. They are due in Lebanon at the end of the week. There is no confirmation of reports that they are also being armed with multiple rocket-launchers and guns with armour-piercing ammunition.

It seems unlikely that such armaments would be deployed, but the situation is more stable, because it would only be taken as a provocation by the Palestinians who are already suspicious of the motives of the French forces. A United Nations spokesman in Beirut has only approximate figures for the numbers of men so far on peacekeeping duty. He believes there are still fewer than half of the 4,000 men promised on the ground. They consist of 700 French, 250 Swedish, 700 Norwegians and 120 Italians, making a total of 1,720. A contingent of Nepalese is expected in the middle of the month, but that is not expected to be large.

Even if there was an identity of views between the French

and the Palestinians, such a force on the Lebanese side would be barely sufficient for policing and observation duties let alone attempting to wrest control from disparate groups of armed men loyal to various leaders far removed from the scene.

Meanwhile, the Beirut newspaper *Al-Nahar* said this morning that Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, is to visit Romania shortly for talks with President Nicolai Ceausescu on the Middle East. Though a spokesman for the PLO said that the trip was not certain yet, the report has brought speculation that the Romanians may once again be trying to mediate.

It was mediation by the Romanians which played a role in the arrangement of President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and Mr Moshe Dayan, Israeli Defence Minister, left for a visit to Romania at the weekend.

Bucharest, April 3.—Mr Dayan had a first round of talks with his Romanian counterpart, Mr Stefan Andrei, this morning. Later he met President Ceausescu. No details of the meeting, described as cordial, were released.—AP.

Jerusalem, April 3.—The Israeli Army has launched a large-scale thrust into Lebanon, the military command said today. A spokesman said the movement of troops and arm out of the area started a week ago and is being coordinated with the United Nations Command.—UPI.

Flight of refugees, page 8

Speaker as the star of Commons broadcast

By David Nicholson-Lord

Like many historical occasions, the regular radio broadcast of the Commons proceedings got off to an unspectacular and inauspicious start yesterday. The impression left on an estimated four million listeners must have been one of anticlimax and confusion.

Rarely did the first Commons question time after the Easter recess, broadcast uninterrupted by the BBC, approach excitement. Disembodied voices gave partly audible answers to frequently unspecified questions. Many of the issues remained obscure while the asides became a monotonous murmur.

That said, the question-time atmosphere was authentically captured for 20 minutes. The gallery commentators, Mr David Holmes for the BBC and Mr Edmund Boyle for Independent Radio News, did a valiant job. Sadly, their breathless but necessary interjections sometimes interfered with what MPs were saying.

The MPs appeared to behave as if nothing untoward was happening. Only a foray into the Welsh language by Mr Dafydd Iwan, Plaid Cymru MP for Merioneth, smacked slightly of staginess.

The star of the proceedings was the Speaker, Mr George Thomas, with his strident name-calling and occasional wit. It was unfortunate that question time was taken up by the Welsh Office, the Civil Service Department and procedural issues. Both the BBC and IRN could not have been provided.

Both were pleased with the result, however. The BBC said it was difficult for a commentator to explain the content of a question in two or three seconds but thought Mr Holmes had coped well. "Once you got used to the style of parliamentary proceedings, it was easy to follow."

Mr Peter Thornton, editor of IRN, said the station intended to provide a clear commentary in future. Technically, he added, the broadcast was successful.

Certain lessons emerged. Editing will be essential to compensate for the listener's lack of a Commons order paper. MPs must make their asides more pronounced if they are to be heard.

Continued on page 2, col 3



Painting slashed: Nicholas Poussin's 'The Adoration of the Golden Calf'

as it was before suffering severe damage in the National Gallery yesterday. Just before noon a number of slashes were made in the painting, one of the most important works by the seventeenth-century French artist (our Arts Reporter writes). Some strips were cut from the picture and fell to the floor. Experts in the conservation and

scientific departments were studying the damage before making any statement about restoring the painting. Gallery officials were puzzled about the motive for the attack. A representative said: "There is nothing offensive about it. It contains no nudity or anything like that." The picture, which measures about seven feet by five feet, was bought for the gallery in 1945 for £10,000 from Lord Radnor, half of the price being

paid by the National Art-Collections Fund. The last serious attack on a painting in Britain occurred four years ago, when the "Adoration of the Magi" by Rubens was scored with the initials "IRA" in King's College chapel, Cambridge. Mr Salvatore Borri, aged 27, unemployed, of Greenford, Middlesex, will appear at Bow Street court today charged with causing criminal damage and with being equipped to cause such damage.

Ulster find of M60 machine gun

From John Groser
Belfast

Weapons, including an M60 machine gun, four pistols and a cassette bomb, were discovered in Belfast yesterday by security forces, who described the find as "a significant breakthrough".

An M60 machine gun has been used as a propaganda weapon by the Provisional IRA, who displayed it publicly in a "Bloody Sunday" demonstration last January. An M60 was also used last month in the murder of a soldier.

It has not yet been established whether the weapon found yesterday was stolen from the United States forces or procured from the Middle East. The tracing of its supply route is regarded both by the police and the Army as being vital to their fight against terrorism.

The discovery was made in Kansas Avenue, not far from Cliftonville, when members of the RUC were investigating a reported case of breaking and entering.

In addition to yesterday's find, 36 weapons together with ammunition and 418lb of explosives have been seized by the security forces in the province in the past three weeks.

Of these, eight have been charged with murder, 16 with attempted murder, 23 with firearms and explosives offences and 13 with armed robbery.

During the first quarter of this year 31 people lost their lives in terrorist incidents, against 40 during the same quarter last year, and 98 were injured, against 400 in the first quarter of 1977.

Solo flier back

Mr David Cyster, who flew solo from Britain to Australia in a 1941 Tiger Moth in 32 days, made the return journey in a Qantas Airways airliner in 24 hours.

British Airways strike affects 20,000

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

About twenty thousand British Airways passengers had to postpone their journeys or transfer to other airlines yesterday because of a strike by cabin crews on short-haul flights.

British Airways cancelled 330 European and domestic flights because of a 24-hour stoppage in support of a claim for the right to be promoted to posts in the intercontinental division.

Among those stranded was the Philharmonia Orchestra. It had to cancel a concert at the Palais de Congress, in Paris, after being held up at Gatwick. Cabin crews, who are due to meet the management today, met last night and could extend the dispute, although British Airways was hopeful that flights would return to normal today.

British Airways said that the dispute arose from a disagreement between the 2,200 short-haul and the 4,200 long-haul stewards and stewardesses over promotions.

The cabin crews, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, are paid the same rates but the long-haul staff are resisting attempts by their short-haul colleagues to be made eligible when promotional vacancies occur in the long-haul service.

A British Airways official said

Greig given eight-week suspension

By Our Sports Staff

Tony Greig, the former England cricket captain, has been suspended for the first eight weeks of the new season, spanning the period April 22 to June 16. The disciplinary sub-committee of the Test and County Cricket Board, meeting at Lord's yesterday, found him to have published derogatory remarks about Geoffrey Boycott, then captain of the England team in Pakistan, in an Australian newspaper. In particular, they took exception, as Boycott's country, Yorkshire, had done, to the suggestion that Boycott had made a practice of "being where the fast bowlers were not".

The committee took into account the fact that they had severely reprimanded Greig for an article in an English newspaper last summer criticising the state of the Old Trafford Test pitch and accusing all groundsman of being lazy. Greig had also been fined £500 on that occasion. Sussex had already taken the decision to wrest the county captaincy from Greig and replace him with Arnold Long, the Sussex wicketkeeper.

The new suspension raises a doubt about Greig's reappearance in English cricket. It had already been known that he intended to make a home in Australia where he has the promise of a position in television with the Packer organization.

John Woodcock, page 10

Liberals get election warning over Budget

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Liberals were told last night that the Prime Minister would call a general election if they voted against the Government's Finance Bill after the Budget statement by Mr Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, next week.

The warning was given by Mr Healey when he saw Mr David

Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, and Mr John Pardoe, the party's spokesman on economic affairs.

He rejected Liberal proposals which, he said, would run counter to the Government's strategy of winning down inflation. The Liberal have argued for greater tax relief, counter balanced by a package that would include an overall 10 per cent value-added tax.

Rate increases above forecast

Householders in England and Wales will pay an average 11 per cent more in rates this year, a survey states. This is higher than the single-figure increase forecast by Mr Peter Shore.

Tankers ignore French rules

Many oil tankers are ignoring France's new regulations for shipping off the coast of Brittany. The French are particularly incensed by the fact that some of the offending vessels are from EEC countries. Co-operation with Britain, however, is emergency plans for Channel disasters is reported to be progressing well.

Baby-battering death inquiry

A common language between social services departments handling baby-battering cases is urgently needed, an inquiry into the death of Simon Patrick, aged seven months, stated. His parents were jailed for manslaughter in 1977.

Carter warning to S Africa

President Carter arrived in Liberia with a warning to South Africa to work for a nationally acceptable settlement in Namibia (South-West Africa) or face the consequences. He said it would be a serious matter if South Africa rejected United Nations supervision of elections and the participation of the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO). Page 8

Mr Gaul 'seeking Malta arrest'

Mr John Gaul, wanted for questioning by police in Britain in connection with the murder of his wife, said in Malta he had given himself up in order to use extradition proceedings to get a fair hearing.

Europa held up

This month's issue of *Europa*, which should have appeared today, will be published on Thursday.

Leader, page 15

Letters: On House of Lords reform, from Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, and Dr Rodney Turner; on the tax structure, from Professor J. E. Meade; on the Blenheim archives, from the Duke of Marlborough and Mr Winston Churchill; MP Rejoice: article: Soviet scramble for Africa. Features: pages 12 and 14 Bernard Levin at the Blake exhibition; Marcel Berlins on the law of the sea negotiations; Anne Karpel on foster parents. Arts: page 13 Paul Ovey on renewed interest in Victorian and Edwardian art; Christopher MacKenna talks to Richard Osborne about Martin's 'Relicta'; John Percival on the 'IDS' gala at Drury Lane; Stan Sade on La Spina (Collegio Theatre).

Obituary, page 16

Sir Henry Wilson Smith, 87, died; pages 10 and 11. Cricket: Lancashire defend their title; new moves to stop drug-taking; Boxing: prospects for two British world title contenders; Football: lessons for England from World Cup. Business News, pages 17-23. Book reviews: a subdued day's trading at the FT Index closed 1.3 down at 862.5. Financial Editor: An unsettled Budget; the Budget (Queen's Speech); defensive action: Freeports: how much of the take? Business feature: Maurice Cowton on Leyland's test chance; Christopher Thomas on discordant notes in the banking hall. Finance: The Bank of England's uphill task in improving industrial efficiency.

Dr Owen recalls envoy in Ethiopia for talks

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

After the latest revelations about the "red terror" in Ethiopia, which have deeply shocked public opinion and MPs, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, has decided to re-examine Britain's diplomatic relations with Col. Mengistu's regime. Mr Derek Day, British Ambassador in Addis Ababa, is returning to London this week for consultations.

Relations between the two governments, already very poor, have been further strained by the report in *The Times* that British troops allegedly carried out by Ethiopian troops against innocent people in Addis Ababa, including the torture and murder of children.

The official *Ethiopian Herald* has accused the British of plotting and the mass media of whipping up a "hate Ethiopia campaign". In a leading article published last week, the paper said: "The British Government and British bourgeois press have scaled new heights of hypocrisy in their vile hatred of Ethiopia and its momentous revolution."

It claimed that in view of Britain's unenviable record of active duplicity with the most violent form of racism in the world today, its pretentious bue and cry in the name of human rights is revolting behaviour and evokes utter contempt.

A condemnation of such hostile behaviour on the part of London against Ethiopia and its popular revolution", the paper said.

The West German embassy has already been reduced to a token presence, probably because of Bonn's financial aid to Somalia.

Continued on page 8, col 7

Leyland gets £850m aid and 10,000 jobs to go

By Edward Townsend

British Leyland has received the full backing of the Government and the National Enterprise Board for its new four-year corporate plan which will involve an injection of public funds totalling £850m, a capital investment programme of about £1,300m and the loss this year of 10,000 jobs.

The Government has endorsed the company's proposal that the NEB provide £450m this year in the form of new equity of which £300m will come from NEB funds and £150m from the Government under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972.

British Leyland's plan, published in abridged form by the NEB yesterday, forecasts that the company will be able to match the £850m of public money with internally generated funds.

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Princess is suffering from influenza

Princess Margaret has influenza and has been advised by her doctors to stay in bed at Windsor Castle, it was announced yesterday.

She was due to fly to Edinburgh today but has cancelled all her engagements.

The Princess's children, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones and Lord Linley, are spending this part of the Easter holidays with the Princess's estranged husband, Lord Snowdon.

Flea for compassion, page 3

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Robeco N.V. announces a Final Dividend for the year 1977 of 35% in stock from the Share Premium Reserve.

OR

at the option of the Shareholder/Sub-shareholder, Fls 5.20 (Fls 0.52 per Sub-share) in cash from the General Reserve.

When the dividend is taken in stock, holdings represented by Bearer Share Warrants with coupons attached cannot be aggregated with holdings of Registered Sub-shares.

EXCHANGE CONTROL POSITION

The Bank of England have given a general permission for Authorised Dealers to deal with this distribution, on behalf of beneficial owners who are resident in the Scheduled Territories (the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, the Republic of Ireland and Gibraltar) as follows:

(1) On the presentation of Coupon No. 74, shares received by shareholders in respect of the dividend must be held by the Authorised Dealer for the benefit of the United Kingdom Authorised Depository subject to the same conditions as the underlying holding. If the option to receive cash in lieu of stock is exercised, the amount received must be treated as a dividend and sold to an Authorised Dealer at the current market rate in the official foreign exchange market.

Cash received after 29 September 1978 may be treated in the same manner as proceeds emanating from a sale of the underlying holding.

(2) Purchase of Coupons No. 74 Such may be purchased by starting in the United Kingdom, or with investment currency outside the United Kingdom. Shares acquired by the purchase of additional Coupons—

(a) may, in respect of United Kingdom residents whose underlying holding is regarded as qualifying for transfer in completion of a sale under the permission given in paragraph 37 of the Notice E.C.7, (2nd issue) be regarded as so qualifying;

(b) should, in respect of the United Kingdom residents whose underlying holding is held subject to restrictions on disposal, be held subject to the same restrictions— the Bank of England would be prepared to consider applications, submitted through Authorised Dealers, for the proceeds of sale of portions relating to shares derived from the Coupons purchased with investment currency, to be regarded as eligible for the premium.

(c) Shares acquired by residents of the Scheduled Territories other than the United Kingdom should be held subject to the terms of paragraph 57-64, as amended, of the Notice E.C.7, (2nd issue).

(3) Sale of Coupons No. 74

(a) In respect of United Kingdom residents

(i) Where the underlying holding could be transferred in completion of a sale under the permission given in paragraph 37 of the Notice E.C.7, (2nd issue) Coupons No. 74 may be sold in the United Kingdom for Sterling or abroad for Foreign Currency.

(ii) Where the underlying holding is held subject to restrictions on disposal, permission under the Exchange Control Act 1947 is given for Coupons No. 74 to be sold in the United Kingdom for Sterling or abroad for Foreign Currency, where the Authorised Dealer is satisfied that the underlying holding is in the beneficial ownership of such residents. Paragraph 58 of the Notice E.C.7, (2nd issue) as amended, refers.

(b) In respect of residents of the Scheduled Territories other than the United Kingdom. Permission under the Exchange Control Act 1947 is given for Coupons No. 74 to be sold in the United Kingdom for Sterling or abroad for Foreign Currency, where the Authorised Dealer is satisfied that the underlying holding is in the beneficial ownership of such residents. Paragraph 58 of the Notice E.C.7, (2nd issue) as amended, refers.

Note:

The above permissions relating to residents of the Scheduled Territories other than the United Kingdom are given without prejudice to any requirements of the local Exchange Control Authorities.

INCOME TAX POSITION

UNITED KINGDOM RESIDENTS

When the dividend is accepted in stock, i.e. 35%, it is not subject to Netherlands Dividend Tax or United Kingdom Income Tax.

When election is made to take the dividend in cash, i.e. Fls 5.20 per share (Fls 0.52 per Sub-share) it is subject to Netherlands Dividend Tax and United Kingdom Income Tax, but reference should be made to the further information given in this notice.

SALE OF COUPONS

It has been ruled that a coupon which entitles a shareholder to participate in an optional cash/stock or stock/cash distribution is a "coupon for foreign dividends" within the meaning of Section 1(1) of the Income Tax Act 1972, and the proceeds of the sale or transfer of a coupon, without selling or transferring the underlying security, are accordingly chargeable to income tax under Section 159 (3) of the Income Tax Act 1972.

BEARER SHARE WARRANTS WITH COUPONS ATTACHED

Authorised Depositories in the United Kingdom may present coupons to the Company's Paying Agents, National Westminster Bank Limited, Stock Office Services, 5th Floor, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2C 8PU, on the following basis:

Payable as from the 8 April 1978

Holders accepting this dividend in stock will receive new shares, free of payment, on the basis of one new share for each 30 shares held, against a coupon No. 74, presentation of which must be in multiples of 30 shares.

Holders who elect to take the dividend in cash will receive payment in Sterling at the bank's buying rate of exchange (less exchange commission), on Amsterdam current at 2 p.m. on the day of lodgement.

After the 29 September 1978, the option ceases and an amount in cash based on the value of the shares as at that date will be made available by the Company.

Residents of Switzerland can apply for a partial refund by submitting a form to the Eidgenössische Steuerverwaltung, Bern, from whom this form can also be obtained.

Residents of Italy can have a full refund by submitting Form 92 IT, certified by the local tax authority, to the Inspector of Corporation Tax, Via del Corso, 2, 4-A, Rome.

If the coupons presented are accompanied by the appropriate certified forms 92, supplied by residents of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, The Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, or the United States of America, the Netherlands Dividend Tax amounting to 15% will be withheld and coupons will be paid free of tax. Coupons presented on behalf of holders who are not residents of the United Kingdom, except where the underlying holding is held in the name of the coupons, will be subject to Netherlands Dividend Tax at the rate of 15%. Forms 92 VK will not be required. United Kingdom Income Tax will be deducted at 15% on the gross dividend.

In those cases where exemption from Netherlands Dividend Tax is not claimed, such tax at 15% will be deducted and coupons will be paid at Fls 3.82 per coupon. United Kingdom Income Tax will be deducted at 15% on the net dividend received in the United Kingdom, except where the underlying holding is held in the name of the coupons.

Using forms may be obtained from the Company's Paying Agents as above.

SUB-SHARE CERTIFICATES

IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK (NOMINEES) LIMITED

Claims should be lodged with National Westminster Bank Limited, Stock Office Services, 5th Floor, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2C 8PU, on the following basis:

For holders electing to take the dividend in cash (Fls 0.52) a fixed Sterling rate of exchange will be determined on the Record Date as a basis for payment of the dividend. This will be announced shortly, together with the amount of the dividend in Sterling, the amount of the 15% and 25% Netherlands Dividend Tax and the amount of United Kingdom Income Tax, all per Sub-share. The appropriate forms for relief of the dividend tax are referred to above. United Kingdom residents who elect for the cash option are not required to lodge form 92 VK for the relief of the Netherlands Dividend Tax.

When making payments on or after the 8 April 1978 National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited will deduct Exchange and Marking Name Commission together with United Kingdom Income Tax at 15% on the gross dividend except where Inland Revenue Affidavits are lodged with the claim.

After the 29 September 1978, stock only will be available for those Sub-shareholders who have not claimed their entitlement.

22 March, 1978.

A pensions injustice remedied: ex gratia recompense awarded

House of Commons

Mr Laurence Pavitt (Brent, South Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Social Services to make a statement on the report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration entitled *A war pensions injustice remedied*.

Mr David Ennals said in a written reply—I have read the Parliamentary Commissioner's report with grave concern. I accept unreservedly his severe criticism of the course adopted by the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance in September, 1964, which from then till 1977 caused underpayment of war pension to a small group of ex-regular officers. I do not condone, or seek to excuse, the actions of the officials involved in the decisions which had this result.

As soon as the matters to which the report relates were brought to my attention, I set in hand full inquiries and arranged for steps to be taken to identify the individual cases affected so that full pension arrears could be paid. In view of the exceptional circumstances, I also authorised an award of ex gratia recompense for the delay.

Following the examination of the ledger sheets for all 20,000 officers now receiving war pensions, 25 retired officers were found to be so affected.

Examination of the papers has shown that four middle grade officials were involved. Three of them, including both those who took the decisions, have since retired. The fourth is working abroad. It does not appear that ministers, or indeed senior management, were consulted when these events took place.

The Parliamentary Commis-

sioner makes clear in his report that the course of action adopted in 1964 was followed thereafter, and his investigation in 1977, and he specifically refers to correspondence first with the complainant, and then with a Member of Parliament, in 1975. I have inquired into this aspect also. I find that officials at working level in the central office at Norwich were all involved in cases dealt with simply referred to, and followed, the guidance given in 1964. They regarded this as authoritative since decisions had come from the war pensions policy branch in London.

I understand that the Parliamentary Commissioner did not find it necessary in his investigation to interview the officials involved and he has not given their names in his report. Nor would I regard it as right to do so myself. It must be recognized that these events took place many years ago.

The civil servants concerned have had no opportunity to make any statement, and I would now find it difficult to assemble evidence bearing on their individual responsibility.

I have arranged for the lessons to be learned from this disturbing affair to be brought forcefully to the attention of all those currently engaged in war pensions administration. The Parliamentary Commissioner says in his report that: "From a number of cases which I have investigated I am satisfied that in recent years the department has been able to carry out a scrupulous and indeed humane view of their responsibilities to war pensioners. I am determined that the best solutions will be adopted to the highest standards of integrity."

It is anybody considering when this House is going to get a separate prime ministerial organization in separate departments under a prime ministerial office, which is bound to have a different sort of working, for example during sessions and recesses, from an organization responsible to the Government?

Mr Foot—Whether my proposal would be satisfactory I am not prepared to comment on now. I doubt whether that would be the best approach to the problem.

He is under a misapprehension when he says we are proposing to leave the solution of this problem to the prime ministerial office. As I have said, we are seeking to do it in the best way possible, to the benefit of the views of the organization which has a longer and deeper experience perhaps than any other body in the country in this matter.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Waton, Lab)—It is time that some MPs learn that workers have real problems, and that if they are concerned with the levels they are concerned with the levels of unemployment. All workers fear unemployment.

It is right that Mr Foot should be the man to proper negotiation between the two sides, and not to MPs who have suddenly become industrial experts when in essence most of them know nothing about industrial relations and never will.

Mr Foot—It is not a question of unemployment. I fully accept what Mr Heffer says. He is right about the way we should try to solve industrial disputes.

Mr Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester, Con) said: The record of disruption and non-delivery is no longer acceptable. Will the Lord President call for tenders from private printers outside HMSO with one-year contractual guarantee that they will deliver in the period ahead, so that if HMSO will not print for us others will?

Mr Foot—The House can judge for itself how useful that contribution is. It is not for me to say whether it is or is not. I would not have any papers at all. (Conservative interruptions.)

Mr John Pardo (North Cornwall, Lab) can he say something about

Inquiries into allegations about hospital

The Dyfed Area Health Authority were making inquiries into recent newspaper allegations of misconduct by staff at St David's Hospital, Carmarthen, but they do not find any substantiated in these allegations, Mr Barry Jones, Under Secretary for Wales, said.

He added that Mr John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, could not make a statement on the matter before the Area Health Authority's inquiries had been completed.

But he said I should like to take this opportunity to express my sympathy with staff of the hospital who understand the feel, as it is, that their collective reputation has been unfairly impugned by those anonymous imputations.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales (Fenham, Lab) said: Despite the story in the *Daily Mirror*, the hospital enjoys a high reputation. I and others have received representations from patients protesting at what they regard as a disreputable slur on the staff.

Mr Jones—Mr Morris will make a statement when he has the report from the area health authority. I have great admiration for the work done by those who care for the mentally ill.

A thorough investigation provides the best possible answer to any unjustified slur. I think the staff at St David's understand this. I believe they themselves requested the inquiry.

Mr Gwyn Evans (Carmarthen, Pl, Cymru) said: The *Daily Mirror* which alone published these allegations, has failed to produce any evidence to substantiate them.

Waiting for a report on select committees

The maintenance of the party system was essential for the maintenance of democracy, Mr Michael Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, said during questions about select committee reforms.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) had asked if he had any further plans to reform the procedures of select committees.

Mr Foot (Ebbw Vale, Lab)—Our select committee procedures are one of the matters under consideration by the Select Committee on Procedure. I suggest we await their report.

Mr Skinner—If select committees are to remain, and unlike me there seem to be a lot of people on both sides of the House who want to see that happen, they drastically need altering.

One way would be to have separate secretaries for all the parties represented. This would tend to provide a partisan cutting edge, at present not being exhibited in recent reports on steel and race relations which have proved to be

very consensus, coalition-type reports.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab)—The operation of select committees makes the process of open government more open than it otherwise would be. Any move to restrict their endeavours would be regarded as reactionary.

In principle, the select committees ought to have the right to demand the presence of ministers of the Crown, if they so wish.

Mr George Reid (East Strathclyde and Clackmannan, Scot Nat)—He should draw the curtains on the members of the Scottish Assembly

Mr Morris—Clobbering the Civil Service has become almost a national sport.

Mr Charles Morris (Minister of State for the Civil Service) said at question time when he also indicated a drop of 8,200 civil servants to 738,000 in the year to January 1, 1978.

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the advantages of having a highly-developed, co-ordinated, and open mind. I am sure that the party system is essential for the maintenance of democracy in this country.

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RAF to get 385 Tornado aircraft first deliveries next year

Mr James Wellbeloved, Under Secretary for the RAF (Berkley, Epsom and Crayford, Lab), opening a debate on the Royal Air Force, said it was appropriate that the Service should have been selected as the first of the three to be debated in the House this afternoon because of the RAF's celebration two days ago of its sixtieth anniversary.

A prime example of the flexibility required of aircraft to operate in different scenarios was the Tornado which the RAF would be operating in the Eighties. The RAF had procured 385 of these aircraft, of which 220 would be for strike attack and reconnaissance and 165 would operate in the air defence role.

So far 150 production models of the IDS version, the GR.1, had been ordered. First deliveries were expected next year. This plane would provide the RAF with the capability to mount "insurance" and attack sorties on the enemy's forces on the ground. Their range, speed and altitude will enable them to penetrate enemy air space, exploiting tactical routing and their ability to fly in poor weather and darkness.

Construction had begun on three development aircraft in the Tornado F2 programme. This plane, to carry out its air defence task, of identifying potentially hostile aircraft long range, would carry an important new air intercept radar. The first phase of the airborne trials of this radar had been completed and the second phase would begin soon.

The collaborative Tornado development programme had proved an immense success, with benefits for the air forces and industries of three participating countries. It was intended to make the collaborative programme beyond the

stage of the manufacture of aircraft.

The hope was that the pilots and navigators destined for frontline Tornado squadrons would undergo aircrew conversion training together. The United Kingdom and West German Governments had already agreed in principle to the establishment of a joint training facility and confirmation of Italian participation was eagerly awaited.

To improve the air defences of the United Kingdom the Government had agreed to purchase an additional Rapier short-range surface-to-air missile system named by the RAF Regiment. It was planned to deploy this squadron for the air defence of the aircraft based at RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland.

The Government had taken another step to augment the surface-to-air missile defences by agreeing with the Swedish authorities to acquire their stock of Bloodhound missiles to augment the reserves already held. Both weapons represented formidable and valuable enhancements of Britain's air defence capability.

In the longer term the Government was conducting studies on how best to meet the RAF requirement for an aircraft to replace the Jaguar and Harrier when those reached the end of their operational life. The studies, taking into account the potential for collaboration within Europe and hoped to be able to make progress towards the procurement of such aircraft in the course of this year.

Many MPs had raised with him problems about disturbance caused by low-flying aircraft. Flying was of paramount importance to the operational efficiency of the RAF. It was part of their deterrent to the Soviet Union, and it was the ability to counter attack swiftly and if necessary

strike deep into enemy territory.

To penetrate the highly sophisticated radar and missile defences today the most effective tactic was for the aircraft to fly at low level, where they were difficult to detect. There were some difficulties about the skills which could be acquired on simulators or in the air over the sea. The necessary flying-over-land.

They were carrying out a series of the low-flying system in the United Kingdom. A review was not finally planned. As regards public opinion, it was not clear that it would be for the low-flying system published but these matters still under consideration. A would make an impression on the public.

Training in low flying, on to the RAF's ability to defend country and maintain the front line. Some disturbance was inevitable. Every effort was made to reduce the impact on the public. The RAF was doing its best to make the disturbance as small as possible over the most thinly populated areas. Some disturbance was inevitable.

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Low flying was a vital part of the RAF's deterrent. There was a code of rules regulating the use of the aircraft. The RAF was doing its best to make the disturbance as small as possible over the most thinly populated areas. Some disturbance was inevitable.

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Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: State Immunity Bill, third reading. Progress in committee on Scotland Bill.

السلامة العامة

Three little boys who symbolize the price Lebanese have paid

From David Watts
Beirut, April 3

Three little boys sitting on the ground in a tent, stare blankly towards the light of a camp. Their faces are drawn, their eyes lifeless. Their expressions have not changed since an Israeli air raid flattened their village in southern Lebanon and they have not spoken or been able to understand their mother, Mrs Souad Sorour, who stands over them, her face scarcely more animated than those of her sons.

The shock of the Israeli jets' attack on the village of Tair Haria has left the boys, all under the age of 10, in this state.

The trauma of the Sorour family are perhaps more visible and dramatic than those of many of the 120,000 refugees who have been forced out of the south by the Israeli invasion but the boys and their mother symbolize the awesome price that innocent Lebanese and Palestinian civilians have paid.

Apart from the number of deaths, for which no reliable figures are yet available with bodies being dug from wrecked villages throughout the south day after day, the lives and prospects of thousands of others have been ruined. The occupation of a tenth of the country has sent a mass of refugees north to Beirut, crowding the problems of a city already crowded with some 800,000 refugees from the civil war.

About 100,000 refugees are believed to have moved to Beirut in the day following the invasion. Thousands of them took over flats, houses and office buildings at gunpoint. Hotels were commandeered and beach houses taken over.

Numerous refugees are still without proper shelter and the United Nations relief and works agency has appealed for help in the supply of blankets, tents, food, clothing and cash.

Since the Palestinians in Lebanon were already refugees their problems are more easily recognized and tackled since refugee numbers and family details are already on record. But for the Muslim Lebanese, such as the Sorour family, the experience of homelessness and uncertainty about their fate and their homes is a new and shocking experience.

The Sorours are housed in a tent camp near the Beirut International Airport, commanded by Lieutenant Hassan Soubar. Lieutenant Soubar, a young, fresh-faced Lebanese Army man, takes his job as camp "father" seriously.

His problems are formidable. There is an almost constant stream of people, mainly men, wanting to be let into the camp. Already there are 17 women and children to a tent. The menfolk must fend for themselves outside the camp.

The lieutenant hopes that his camp will not be needed for long. He supervised its building and the installations are solid and dependable. Concrete blocks make up the kitchen and reception office.

There are water and electricity supplies. Twenty scouts are available 24 hours a day to help with problems and keep the camp running with crisp efficiency. A doctor is on call at any time. There are cigarettes, chocolates and snacks on a stand not far from the gate.

The whole operation has an air of cohesion and purpose which masks the tragedy of the camp's inmates.

The situation a few miles away in the centre of Beirut epitomizes the inability of the Lebanese Government to tackle the situation. The Government's social security infrastructure has not been rebuilt since the civil war ended and the new influx of rootless thousands threatens to upset the fragile calm which the presence of large numbers of peacekeeping troops has maintained since the end of the factional fighting.

Government officials estimate that 9,000 flats and offices in the capital have been taken over. Every serviceable building in the city centre not fully occupied has become a refugee camp in microcosm.

Mr Salah Salaman, the Minister of the Interior, has said that families who fled from homes near the border will have to return soon.

The authorities estimated tonight that some 40,000 refugees have returned to their homes but with the Israelis showing no immediate sign of leaving there is little encouragement. Those who do go back face restrictions that seem unreasonable.

Many returning refugees have been told that if they are allowed into the occupied area they will not be allowed to come back to it if they leave. Adults accompanying children have to go on alone when they reach the Israeli lines.

Some of those whose homes escaped the Israeli bombing find the troops have systematically wrecked their homes.

Mr Park says Korean handouts helped US

From David Cross
Washington, April 3

Mr Tongsun Park, the South Korean businessman who admits to paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to influential members of the United States Congress, said today that he regretted "certain things" he had done.

But, he maintained, none of his actions was improper. They were designed to promote the national interests of the United States and Korea, which he described as "America's staunchest ally in the Far East."

Mr Park was testifying in public for the first time since he returned to Washington from South Korea a month or so ago as chief witness in the investigation into Seoul's alleged campaign to buy influential friends in the American capital. He returned here on the understanding that he would not be prosecuted for his part in this "Koreagate" scandal.

Since his return he has testified in secret before committees of both the House of Representatives and the Senate including the ethics committee of the Lower House, which today began a three-day public hearing.

Much of this morning's testimony was devoted to a long question-and-answer session about the \$750,000 worth of gifts and campaign contributions made to about 30 members of Congress between 1969 and 1970. They included cash payments totalling several hundred thousand dollars to the former members of the House of Representatives, Mr Otto Passman of Louisiana and Mr Richard Hanna of California. Both have been formally indicted on charges of receiving illegal payments from Mr Park. Mr Hanna has pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge.

Many of the other contributions, usually in the form of cheques, consisted of relatively small sums totalling \$500 or \$1,000 for campaign expenses.

In a separate development, Mr William Porter, a former American ambassador to South Korea, has confirmed earlier reports that the American secret services once had a bugging device in the residence of President Park Chung-hee in Seoul.

In an interview with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), to be broadcast tonight, Mr Porter said he was told the bugging stopped before he arrived in Seoul in 1967. "I was told that it was not functioning," he said. "I gave a specific order that it was not to be renewed."



President Carter is embraced by President Tolbert of Liberia on his arrival in Monrovia

Carter warning to S Africa

Monrovia, April 3.—President Carter told South Africa today that it must move towards an internationally acceptable arrangement for black majority rule in Namibia (South-West Africa).

He said there would be serious differences with the United States if South Africa ignored United Nations supervision of elections in the territory and barred participation by the South-West Africa Peoples Organization (Swapo).

The President made his comments to reporters as he flew to Monrovia for a four-hour visit to Liberia. Mr Carter came here from Lagos, where he and the Nigerian head of state, Lieutenant-General Olusegun Obasanjo, said they were determined to eradicate South Africa's "evil and oppressive system of apartheid."

But the President resisted General Obasanjo's call on the United States, which has large business investments in South Africa, to impose economic sanctions in support of black

nationalist movements seeking to overthrow apartheid. He made it clear that for the time being at least, the United States would not go beyond observing the United Nations arms embargo against South Africa and using political and moral pressure for change.

Mr Carter received a tumultuous welcome as he rode with President William Tolbert to Liberia's Executive Mansion. Crowds estimated at 100,000 moved to half the population of the Liberian capital, jammed the streets to wave and cheer.

Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, said here that the first round of new talks on Rhodesia, proposed by the United States, will probably take place on April 15 in Dar es Salaam. American sources said that the leader of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front, Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, had indicated they would participate in such a conference, which has British backing.

The sources said that the conference would also be attended by Mr Andrew Young, the American representative at the United Nations, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary and the foreign ministers of Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique and Angola—Reuter and Agence France-Presse. Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr John Graham,

Deputy Undersecretary at the Foreign Office, and Mr Stephen Low, American Ambassador to Zambia, will begin a new round of consultations about the proposed conference with African leaders this week. Their itinerary has not been fixed but they may also go to South Africa.

Salisbury, April 3.—Two Rhodesian-based black nationalist parties today angrily rejected President Carter's call for a new Rhodesian settlement conference.

The United African National Council of Bishop Abel Muzorewa described the American leader's suggestion as fruitless, suicidal and impudent. The African National Council of the Rev Ndabandwe Sithole said the Rhodesian agreement of March 3 providing for majority rule on December 31 was final and unalterable.

The Salisbury accord set up a transitional government headed by Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Bishop Muzorewa, Mr Sithole and Chief Jeremiah Chirau of the Zimbabwe United People's Organization.

Bishop Muzorewa's party accused Mr Carter of trying to "trade the masses of Zimbabwe for Nigerian oil." Police in Bulawayo yesterday dispersed with teargas a crowd of about 2,000 blacks demonstrating against the internal settlement agreement.

Skilful Western plan narrows Namibia gap

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, April 3

The West's final proposals for a transfer of power in Namibia (South-West Africa) which were presented to South Africa and the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) at the end of last week, are a masterpiece of compromise diplomacy.

By diluting Swapo's demands, often deliberately vague, and by offering the five Western members of the United Nations Security Council (Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Canada) have managed to bring the protagonists closer together than would have been thought possible when the Western initiative first began last year.

A still exists between the South Africans and Swapo but in the words of a Western diplomat in Lusaka, "it is now merely a question of political will whether that gap can be bridged or not."

Whether that political will exists will become clear during the next week or so, once both sides have started their views on the proposals. The West does not expect outright acceptance by either side, but is hoping that the proposals will not be rejected "out of hand." If neither side rejects the package, then the Western nations will present it to the Security Council for approval.

There can be no doubt that the Western plan puts both us and the South Africans in a spot. It admitted Swapo's demands for law and order in the proposals had been presented. "If we turn them down it will be said we did so because we are afraid to take part in free elections. If South Africa rejects them it means the West is not serious about granting genuine independence to Namibia but all along was just intent on going ahead with the internal settlement."

What the Western proposals attempt to do is to strike a balance between South Africa's demands on the one hand and those of Swapo on the other. Thus, on the key question of the retention of South African troops in Namibia during elections the Western plan leans towards Swapo on numbers but towards South Africa on their location.

The Western plan provides for the retention of a South African force of 1,500 men to be based in Grootfontein and/or Ochiello, two large and sophisticated camps in the north of the territory. Swapo has wanted the West as a whole to withdraw its troops from the territory in the Western countries said this was "tantamount to demanding South Africa's complete withdrawal."

However, all South African troops will be withdrawn within seven days of the transfer of national elections for Swapo. On the question of a United Nations presence during the interim period until elections are held, the Western plan tends to favour Swapo. The United Nations representative who will be appointed to handle the question of political prisoners will also be responsible for the United Nations special representative. Against this, however, a decision by the Western nations to leave out the dispute over Walvis Bay in their proposals will be a disappointment to Swapo. This vital port was an integral part of Namibia.

The West's view is that Walvis Bay should not be allowed to impede a settlement. If Swapo does reject the Western plan then it is likely because of its failure to include Walvis Bay. However, the Western powers in Swapo will not do that. They have been secure by the latest remarks of Swapo's president, Mr Nujoma, who is at present in India, that his organization still willing to take part in elections.

The West is less confident about South Africa's stance. For the past few weeks South Africa has been giving heavy hints about a settlement while the media has carried out a massive, unrelenting and unrelenting campaign.

If South Africa does down the plan the first sign Powers have made it, they may no longer be able to resist United Nations economic sanctions against South Africa. They have the Western nations will have to face along and debilitating war against its northern border.

Delhi, April 3.—Mr Jayprakash Narayan, leader of the latest Western proposals for Namibian settlement, but there could be no compromise over Walvis Bay. Reuter

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Poorly-led Frelimo no match for Rhodesians

From a Correspondent
Machipanda, Mozambique, April 3

Silhouetted against the blue sky, a Rhodesian soldier peers through his binoculars, carefully examining the visitors. Beside him in the same position, an emplacement perched on top of the abandoned customs shed, his companions are suddenly alert, the unexpected arrival breaking up an otherwise dull afternoon.

Across the twin 10ft fences which now mark this border, half a dozen soldiers of Mozambique's Frelimo Army pose for photographs and, like tourist guides, point out the sites to visiting journalists.

But the serenity of the scene is deceptive, for lorry-loads of troops are stationed in the roads nearby, military checkpoints control all movements and the streets of the town of Vila Manica about six miles away are crowded with soldiers.

The increased Frelimo activity is part of a new effort by Mozambique to defend its border after more than 300 Rhodesian incursions last year. A large build-up of troops and equipment is also taking place in Tete province in the north, sources said.

Tracks crisscrossing the bush in the area suggest that at least some of the country's 80 Soviet-built T34 tanks have been moved into position. The small amounts of light artillery, including Sam missiles received from the Soviet Union, have also been deployed in the border regions, the sources said.

While it is the nationalist guerrillas Rhodesia is at war with Mozambique—which provides the guerrilla bases—has suffered much at Rhodesian hands.

Several villages have been occupied at various times, large numbers of Mozambican soldiers and civilians have been killed,

Kenya backs Ethiopia demands on Somalia

Continued from page 1

It is to weigh this choice between moral imperatives and the claims of national interest, that the Foreign Office review takes place this week.

In Uganda, the decision was perhaps more clear-cut. In the sense that British connections with the country, although of long standing, had been reduced to a minimum, and Uganda has no strategic importance in Africa. In the Horn of Africa, by contrast, events are moving swiftly in an area which obviously has vital strategic significance for the West as a whole. Moreover, Addis Ababa is the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity.

Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: Dr Munyua Waiyaki, the Kenyan Foreign Minister, has said here that Kenya and Ethiopia intend to renew their mutual defence pact, which is due to end in July. The minister was speaking after his return with a Kenyan goodwill delegation last night from a five-day visit to Ethiopia.

The Kenyan delegation had discussions with Addis Ababa leaders in Addis Ababa, and also visited Dire Dawa and the town of Gode, which recently recaptured Somali forces. Dr Waiyaki said that the pact had been destroyed the town and military bases there. The visit to the former areas appears to have made deep impression on the Kenyan delegation. Dr Waiyaki had shown how Kenya is self-reliant in case of war.

Dr Waiyaki said he and Ethiopian leaders had reached an agreement on the situation in the Horn of Africa. Kenya backed Ethiopia's insistence that Somalia must renounce claims on the territory of Ethiopia. Kenya and Ethiopia must accept all United Nations and Organization of African Unity principles of non-interference in other states' affairs and must agree to pay compensation for damage caused in Ethiopia.

Rome, April 3.—Entire surgeons said today they captured nearly all of the of Addis Ababa from the Eritrean troops. Addis Ababa is the main road from Addis Ababa to Asmara, the Eritrean capital. Leading article, p. 1

Briton's body flown out

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, April 3

The bodies of a 19-year-old Briton, Mr Nicholas Love, and two South African game rangers who were shot in Botswana last week were flown to Pretoria today after negotiations between the South African and Botswana governments. The two South Africans were Mr Billy D. Beer and Mr Michael Arden. Post mortem examinations are to be held in South Africa.

According to a Botswana government statement last week the three men were shot by Botswana soldiers after they escaped from custody. They were arrested to the Rhodesian and African borders, were seen of carrying out espionage duties.

However, several African newspapers pointed to discrepancies in Botswana version of the incident. The Botswana version of the incident led to the killing of the three men. The parents of the Briton, Mr Love, are in South Africa.

\$87m deal averts New York transport strike

From Michael Leapman
New York, April 3

The Monday morning rush hour was no more horrific than usual for most New York commuters today, which came as a great relief to them. A last-minute pay deal with bus and subway workers at the weekend averted a strike which had been anticipated with mounting trepidation.

The settlement was a modest one—a pay increase of 6 per cent over the next two years—and Mr Edward Koch, the mayor, promised that it would mean no rise in the bus and subway flat fare of 50 cents (about 28p). Yet it has not necessarily ensured labour peace for the coming months and, more important, it may not go down well with members of Congress in Washington.

They have still to approve new federal loans to enable the city to escape a fiscal crisis of the kind that brought it to the brink of bankruptcy two years ago. The estimated cost of the pact is \$87m, but the key point is that the settlement with the public transport employees is traditionally regarded as a standard for pay deals with other city workers. Increases on that scale for the rest of the labour force would cost \$800m over the two years.

The city wants the other employees to accept less than the bus and subway workers and is trying to limit the total cost to \$600m. Union leaders say they want more, but they are in a weaker bargaining position because they do not have the same power to cripple the city.

This pact with the transport employees was settled at 4 am on Saturday, four hours after the strike deadline set by the union. It was almost inevitable that the negotiations would continue until the last minute, since it was important for both sides—especially for the mayor—to prove that they had been as tough as possible.

Mr Koch had already proved his determination not to be over-generous by devising an elaborate emergency plan to cope with the loss of the city's public transport. Cars would not be allowed into the centre of the city with fewer than three passengers, taxis would have been able to take extra passengers at extra fares. Bridges normally reserved for powered vehicles would have been opened up to pedestrians.

A separate strike of Long Island railway carries thousands of commuters into New York, was also averted after a hectic weekend of bargaining. The only transport which did go ahead was the rapid transit system Staten Island and a bus in New Jersey.

However, a strike by bus and subway workers is still out of the question. The agreement reached on Saturday, many have expressed disappointment that the in barely less than keep up inflation. If the agreement is rejected, the mayor's agency plan might get into effect.

السلامة للجميع

OVERSEAS

Founder of Unification Church better known in Korea as owner of weapons factories

From Peter Hazelhurst in Seoul and Diana Patt in Washington

Mr Sun Myung Moon who is looked upon as the Messiah by his followers in the Unification Church, is a prophet without honour in his own country. In South Korea he is better known as the owner of weapon-making factories than as an evangelist.

Mr Moon owns two of these factories in South Korea, the larger in the new Changwon Industrial complex near Pusan. This is known as Tong Il Industries and produces defence equipment which is "classified secret". The second factory is an air gun factory, the Yewha Air Gun Company, at 550 Kuri Township, Suseok Ri, in Yangju County, Kyonggi Do, about 21 miles north-east of Seoul.

Also in Kuri is a complex owned by Mr Moon which was formerly called the Korean anti-Communist Training Centre and which used to hold courses for village chiefs, army reserves and officials. The complex, widely alleged to have been an indoctrination centre, was indirectly supported by the South Korean Government until 1974.

Courses consisted of one week lectures which were sometimes given by guest lecturers from national Police, Defence College intelligence officers and the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA). The lectures covered subjects such as the threat of Marxism, North Korea and guerrilla warfare in China.

However, when the Unification Church came under attack in the United States after the Watergate debacle three years ago, the Government apparently withdrew its tacit support from the church's anti-communist centre. The centre is now named the Tong Il Theological Seminary and consists of lecture halls, a mess and dormitories. A former member of the church says it can contain 100 pupils.

According to Professor Tak Myung, a police officer and theologian of the Korea Theological Seminary and director of the New Religious Research Institute, the Moon seminary holds one-year courses to train its "ministers".

Professor Tak, who is an authority on the Unification Church, says the majority of Protestants shun the church. Moon only enjoys a



Mr Sun Myung Moon: His followers celebrate Christmas on his birthday.

large following overseas. His followers here are at the most up to 10,000 persons, mainly poor unsophisticated people. Moon claims he has 360,000 supporters in Korea, but a former disciple who defected from the church confirms Mr. Moon's figure.

Professor Tak claims that Mr Moon has registered 935 churches in official Government reports on religious organisations. But an internal church magazine obtained by him lists the number of Moon churches in Korea at 172.

Members of the Unification Church in Korea celebrate Christmas on January 6—Mr Moon's birthday. "He claims he is the new Messiah, superior to Buddha, Jesus and Confucius. The Unification Church has never been a Christian church. It is a cult. And it puts Korea to shame before the world", Professor Tak says.

Although the Korean Embassy strongly denies any connexion with Mr Moon and his Unification Church, a student of Korean American relations maintains that it would be impossible for Mr Moon's factory to be given a defence contract or for him to run his many businesses in South Korea without Government connexions.

As well as his two arms factories, these Korean businesses include Korea's largest exporter of ginseng products, the Il Wba (White Pine) Company, whose exports to Japan alone in one year are worth \$10m (£3m); Il Shin Haudicrafts, which produces stone vases; the Donga Titanium Company, which produces paint; the Little Angels Choir; the Korea-United States Freedom Cultural Foundation, which is run by Mr Pak Bo Hi in the United States; and Victory over Communism Federation, which has branches all over the world.

Mr Donald Ranard, director

for the Centre for International Policies in Washington and formerly head of the State Department Korean desk, said: "No organisation of this size with a Korean base could exist without some linkage to the Korean Government."

When the KCIA has infiltrated Christian churches in Korea to the extent it has, isn't it peculiar that an offbeat Korean church is moving ahead so rapidly and gaining members without help from the Korean Government?

Mr Moon's interpreter, Mr Pak Bo Hi, has been shown to have obtained indirect help from the Korean Government for Mr Moon's businesses. General Kim Hyung Wook, former director of the KCIA, has testified to the Fraser Committee to have helped Mr Pak Bo Hi with a permit for Radio Free Asia and getting permission for the Little Angels choir group to leave Korea and tour the United States.

Mr Pak Bo Hi is a retired lieutenant-colonel who served as interpreter and intelligence officer in the Korean Eighth Army. He joined the church as a major in the early 1950s and, according to Professor Tak, is the real second in command of the Moon movement. The church is split into two factions, the Korean group against Mr Pak and the outside followers of Mr Moon for Pak.

While there is no absolute proof of Mr Pak's connexion with the KCIA in the past, most government servants and army officers are committed to cooperate with the agency.

In 1974 the Korean Government shunned ties with the Unification Church after a furor erupted in the United States over Mr Moon's hold over young American converts. As proof of the Korean Government's displeasure, the Il Wba Ginseng Company was raided for tax evasion in February, 1977.

Observers in the United States who believe there is still a strong link between the Government and the Unification Church argue that although corporate officers of Mr Moon's ginseng tea company had been prosecuted for illegal transfer of funds to a tax-exempt organization, the fines in Korea were not substantial enough to be punitive.

(To be continued)

Ghanaian poll official emerges from hiding

From Richard Wigg

Mussoorie, N India, April 3
It was the last day of business for a beer and spirits store here which first obtained its licence in 1880.

"The British drank a great deal on holiday in this hill station, and the women too", an old Indian behind the counter told me proudly. "Then we imported wines from France or Italy, port, sherry, and brandy and had whisky only from Scotland." He pointed with obvious disdain at a row of bottles of today's Indian-made whisky.

Mussoorie, known as the "queen of hill stations" in the days of the raj, when Indian maharajahs and British officials and their wives came to enjoy themselves and escape the stuffy pomp of Simla, is now hard hit by India's prohibition decree.

From April Fool's Day (as many Indians who like a drink have noted) the store's almost 100-year licence has not been renewed because of the prohibition policy ordering for India by Mr Morarji Desai's Government.

For most of India, prohibition is to be introduced gradually over the next four years; but this peaceful holiday resort in the Himalayan foothills was selected as one of seven districts in Uttar Pradesh state to go totally "dry" from the start.

Even foreign visitors will be allowed hardly more than one bottle of beer a day and there is no more alcohol available in any bar, club, hotel or liquor store.

At the Savoy Hotel the atmosphere of British India of the 1930s still lingers on, as nostalgia is a tune from an old gramophone. There are five-course

Bars where memsahibs drank in days of British raj become reluctant leaders of Delhi's prohibition

Liquor ban hits Indian hill-station

From Richard Wigg

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meals, hot-water bottles, fires in the bedrooms, and a plethora of servants.

But not for long. "This will be Mussoorie's death", the manager told me. He had already lost "two conferences booked from Bombay. If only they had introduced it gradually", he went on. "We already have one dry day a week. Why not more or cut our bar hours? We shall lose all our holidaymakers to wet Kashmir."

The losers in Mr Desai's latest bout of moralizing will be Mussoorie's waiters, barmen, hotel servants and shopkeepers. Those who stand to win are the drink retailers in areas 90 minutes' drive away in the still "wet" districts. They have bought licences there at double last year's prices, anticipating increased business with an eye to recouping lost revenue, the state Government has encouraged this practice, leaving itself open to accusations of hypocrisy from indignant local businessmen.

An "action committee" of 22 prominent Mussoorie citizens is fighting the Uttar Pradesh state ordinance in the courts, alleging discrimination against this hill station.

"It's a phobia with the Prime Minister", the committee's lawyer, chairman remarked. He was recalling Mr Desai's earlier attempt to make Bombay go "dry" when he was Chief Minister there.

His efforts in Bombay had to be abandoned when they merely resulted in making bootlegged liquor a few rupees dearer.

The whole region is worried about the side effects of prohibition. An editorial in the Dehra Dun Express asked last

week: "Are they (the state Government) interested in prohibition or is it smuggling they wish to encourage?"

In Delhi where only the first stage of the prohibition process has been imposed so far, there are to be 156 "dry" days a year when no one can buy from the beer and spirits stores. The capital's 14 clubs have stopped serving liquor altogether. The Delhi Press Club has appealed to the supreme court.

Only the Armed forces, the Judiciary, and Air India are escaping Mr Desai's zeal. "I do not mind if my Government goes out of office because of prohibition", the Prime Minister told the All-India Prohibition Council recently.

But others in the Janata Government may not share this death wish which can only benefit the opposition Congress Party and Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister.

Already she has said she favours prohibition by persuasion only and not by compulsion.

Two big problems confront the Government. Will India's police force, widely known for liking a drink, really be capable of suppressing the bootlegging Mafia which is now concentrating on the new "dry" areas?

And how will the Government combat increased resort by poor Indians to illicit and poisonous hooch? Last year 110 people died in one drinking tragedy in Gujarat. Mr Desai's home state, which has already gone "dry".

The punsters are enjoying a joke here: It was nashandi (compulsory sterilisation) which brought Mrs Gandhi down, they say. How nashandi (prohibition) could do the same for Mr Desai.

In brief

Heyerdahl craft burnt out

Djibouti, April 3.—Tigris, the reed craft, the Norwegian explorer, has been destroyed by fire. The craft was six miles offshore when the fire broke out. The cause was not known and there were no reports of casualties among the crew of 15. Mr Heyerdahl was on a voyage aiming to prove that the Ancient Sumerians sailed through the Gulf and into the Indian Ocean about 5,000 years BC.

Successful surgery

Boston, April 3.—John Wayne, the actor, underwent successful open heart surgery in hospital here. He is 70.

Amin rights decision

Nairobi, April 3.—President Amin of Uganda, whose military regime has often been accused of suppressing human rights, is to set up a human rights committee in his country, Radio Uganda reported.

15,000 left homeless

Manila, April 3.—Fire fanned by high winds destroyed hundreds of slum homes in Manila, leaving up to 15,000 people homeless.

Bulgarian dissidents

Vienna, April 3.—A dissident group has emerged in Bulgaria with a six-point "declaration 78" against violations of human rights, the Vienna newspaper Die Presse reported.

Third World report

Africans unite to study their heritage

From Charles Harrison

Nairobi

A new organization has been established here which plans to give the people of Africa a better understanding of their heritage.

The Organization for Museums, Monuments and Sites of Africa (Ommsa) recently held its first general assembly in Nairobi, and it showed how united the African states are on the need for a stronger voice in developing and projecting their rich range of cultures.

"For far too long, this continent, on which the scientific evidence shows that man and his earliest works must have originated, has been misrepresented as not having contributed significantly to the civilization of mankind," said Nana-Kow Bondzie, the Ghanaian who was interim secretary-general before the organization's Nairobi meeting.

Africa has produced a near-complete skeleton of a hominid that is four million years old. The evidence of the early Egyptian civilization has been fairly well preserved, but it is not widely realized that much of the in the Egyptian tombs, and many of the customs of ancient Egypt, could have originated in indigenous African cultures much farther to the south in what was until quite recently the "dark continent".

Nana-Kow Bondzie, in fact, suggested that the circle of civilization could have started from Africa, moving through Egypt to Greece and Rome, before returning to Africa in very recent times.

The formation of his organization—whose crest shows the continent of Africa inside a symbolic pyramid which is enclosed in a circle—arises from an increasing realization of the need to unite Africa in preserving and developing its history and pre-history.

But it was only in 1975, at the Unesco-sponsored International Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa held in Accra, that the decision was taken to establish such a body. The idea was taken a stage further in 1976, when a preparatory meeting was held in Nairobi. Now, with the holding of its first general assembly and the formal adoption of its constitution, Ommsa is fully established, with headquarters in Accra.

Delegates from 18 African countries, from Morocco, Algeria and Egypt in the north to Tanzania and Zaire in the middle of the continent, exchanged experiences at the meeting. They agreed that the organization would study the training and technical needs of Africa's museums, monuments and sites, and would act as a clearing house for information and stimulate individual states to protect the relics of their past.

It will also encourage study, research and cooperation and will try to prevent illicit trade in cultural and archaeological items from Africa.

Professor Joseph-Marie Essomba, of Yaounde, Cameroon, the organization's first president, expressed pleasure that the formative period had ended, with all African states united in supporting it.

There had been no disagreements, he said, and no real problems, despite administrative difficulties that had made it necessary to postpone the general assembly for several months until money for the meeting could be assured.

The new secretary-general is Mr Kwasi Myles, assistant director of monuments and museums in Ghana. "We all realize the importance of getting together as professionals to work out systems of cooperation designed to protect Africa's heritage", he said.

The Nairobi assembly showed that different importance is attached to museums in different parts of Africa. Egypt is a special class here, but other African countries (Nigeria and Kenya, for example) have done a great deal of work in a comparatively short time.

But for many other areas the hope is that the formation of Ommsa will stimulate a much greater interest in studying and preserving Africa's own roots.

Press freedom criticized at Jakarta meeting

Jakarta, April 3.

Lieutenant-General Ali Murtopo, the Indonesian Minister of Information, said today that the communications gap between the industrial and developing countries was widening with the advance of technology.

He told the opening of the second meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Press Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries. "We know that in communication, as much as in other fields, a gap exists between the developed and developing world. The news that reaches a non-aligned country on events taking place in

another non-aligned country usually comes from the media sources of a developed country."

This put the non-aligned countries at a disadvantage as the interpretation of the news was left to the supplier, which in many cases had a different interest than the recipient. The meeting might discuss the creation of a news centre to pool news from developing countries for distribution.

He went on: "More and more people in the world are coming around to reject the libertarian concept of press freedom as the only concept that should prevail."—AP.

81 face £5m-a-year social security fraud charges

From Our Correspondent

Melbourne, April 3

Eighty-one people, including five doctors, appeared before the central court in Sydney today on conspiracy charges involving fraudulent social security payments of about \$A9m (about £3.6m) a year.

In raids over the weekend 100 people from the weekend Greek community, including the doctors, were arrested. The police believe they have broken a conspiracy in which 1,200 people, including 300 new living in Greece, have been receiving benefits fraudulently.

Two doctors were among the first to appear in court today. Mr Tony Griffin, the prosecutor, said that they had conspired with others to defraud Australia between January 1972 and last month. He said that five doctors had given other defendants enabling them to receive sickness and permanent invalid benefits from the Department of Social Security.

After the first 12 defendants were charged, the magistrate adjourned the case until June 12. All the defendants were released on bail and were ordered to surrender their passports. More arrests are expected.

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THERE IS STILL NO CURE FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.

SPORT

Racing

Vestal Virgin keeps Balding in form

By Michael Seely

Two trainers gave clear warning yesterday that they will be forces to be reckoned with in the coming weeks. Ian Balding saddled Paul Mellon's filly, Vestal Virgin, to run out a comfortable winner of the Kibworth Stakes. That was Balding's third success of the season. And Paul Cole also had his third winner when Heir To The Throne, a handsome grey colt by Supreme Sovereign, sprang his field in the Simon de Montfort Stakes.

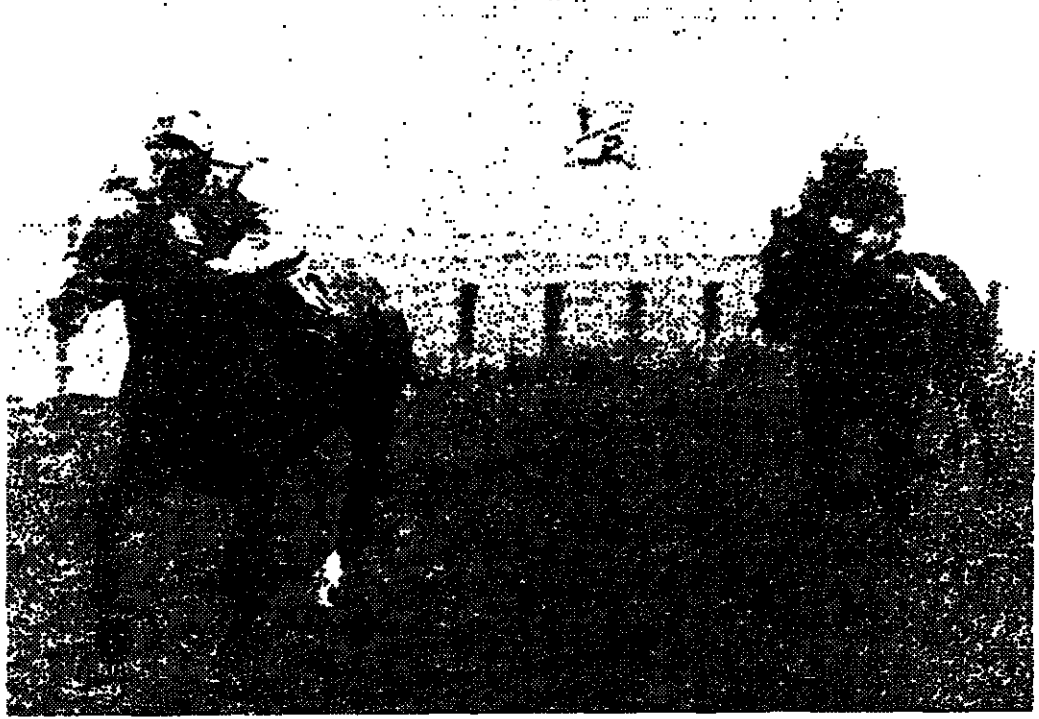
Vestal Virgin won by only a length and a half. But the margin would have been far greater if John Matthews had not eased the three-year-old inside the last furlong when he had the race in safekeeping. Vestal Virgin is entered in the Oaks. But the handicapper's trainer is not sure whether she is up to classic standard. He intends to run her in another division race and see how she progresses.

Balding was full of good news about Fair Season, who is joint favourite with Blustery in most bookmakers' lists for Saturday's Irish Sweepstakes Handicap. "Fair Season is really well," he said. "I could not be more pleased with him." Balding went on to add that Fair Season would be ideally suited by the round mile at Doncaster. And the more rain that falls between now and Saturday the happier the trainer will be.

There can be little doubt that Fair Season is the one they all have to beat in the second leg of the spring double. As a two-year-old the colt won the Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury. Last year he ran a great race, third to The Minstrel in desperate ground at Ascot. Despite never fully recovering from that effort, Fair Season still managed to win two handicaps last autumn. He will be the class horse in the line up on Saturday.

Paul Cole was in confident vein after Heir To The Throne had given him his first two-year-old success of the season. "The fellow will win St. Leger," the Lambourn trainer said. "There is plenty of improvement in him." Cole went on to add that he was delighted with the progress of the year's Prix de la Salamandre winner, John de Coombe. "John de Coombe is a real winner," he said. "And provided that he stays, the sky could be the limit. John de Coombe will have his first test in the Greenham Stakes at Newbury on April 15.

Clive Brittain and Edward Hyde won the Loddington Stakes with The Sandringham. The latter, a favourite to follow up his recent victory at Newcastle. The Newmarket trainer said that it had not been his intention to run The Sandringham in the Derby. "I was looking for a horse to get over an operation so quickly," Brittain said. "Lambourn has been swimming all winter. And now it is just a question of whether we can get him fit in



Heir To The Throne strides away to win the Simon de Montfort Stakes from Igloo.

dme to run in the Guineas." It is good to see Paul Rahan start the season on a high note. This popular and irascible character has already sent out four winners from his yard at Lambourn. His new stable jockey, Christopher Dwyer, was on three of them, but Lester Piggott rode Miss Mops to victory at Teesdale Park. The combination of Rahan and Piggott was extremely successful in the late fifties and early sixties when they captured most of the important sprint races in the calendar. With such flying machines as Right Boy, Alfiey Don and Tin Whistle. This afternoon that can strike at Haydock Park with Salbuck, the finished third to New England Stakes (2.0) and with Inca Warrior in the Johnny Osborne Handicap (4.30).

Salbuck was expected to win her first race at Newcastle on the opening day of the season. After dwelling slightly at the start she was the first to look threatening a furlong from home, but could not find more pace. The respective trainers, Barry Call and Fredrick Neighbour, who franked the form when winning at Newcastle on the Monday.

The runners had to face a strong head wind at Gosforth Park. Salbuck was the worst of it. The two most likely dancers today are Storm Crest and Lana's Secret. The respective trainers, Barry Call and Peter Easterby, have both added two-year-old winners. But Salbuck is expected to be as sharp as her stable companion, the Nottingham winner, Sam's Call. And with the benefit of a previous race behind her she must be a confident selection. Inca Warrior has also been out this season. At Nottingham he surprised his trainer by finishing a close third to Hagatani and Pipereader. This was a fair performance and both first and second were strongly fancied. The three-year-olds most formidable opponent should be Hugo Di Tours. Our Newmarket correspondent says that Luca Cumani's colt has thrived during the winter months. He also adds that Hugo Di Tours has been moving in great style on the heath. But I shall still stand by the public form of Inca Warrior.

Piggott rides Manor Farm Boy for Bill O'Gorman in the day's feature race, the 5,000 Field Stakes. Despite his seven victories last season Manor Farm Boy should not be capable of conceding too much weight to that speedy filly, Chain Lady. But Jack Hardy's horses have been unusually slow to find their form this season. I take Manor Farm Boy to win from Chain Lady and Ackabarrow. Another likely winner at Haydock is the Queen's three-year-old, Court Lady, who was second to Salbuck in the Nat Flatman Maiden Stakes (4.0).

There is also a race at Leicester and Ayr. At Leicester, Fulke Johnson's Toughton and John Redd could be in the money with Sharpen Your Eye in the Barrow Ovary Stakes (3.15). Sharpen Your Eye was a consistent two-year-old last season and showed that he had regained his ability when runner-up to Hawaiian Sound at Kempton Park. Sharpen Your Eye should have too much speed for Hill's Tangle. Toughton and Redd could complete a double by capturing the Harborough Maiden Stakes (4.15) with Idle Waters. The day's best bet could be Neil Adams' three-year-old sprinter, Katie Gay, in the Remington Handicap (4.45). Katie Gay

finished well when sixth to her stable companion, Magnolia Lad, at Warwick and will be hard to beat.

At Ayr, Peter Walwyn's Nottingham winner, Persepolis, faces little of account in the Lady Kirk Stakes (5.0). Provided that Villa Mill stays a mile and a quarter, Red Rum, who has been moving in great style on the heath, should be a strong contender. Our Handicap third should have the measure of his five opponents in the Ayr Spring Handicap (3.30). In the Garwick Handicap (4.20) Fairhurst runs his Teesdale Park scorer, Coded Scrap. But with 7 lb extra for that success Coded Scrap may not be able to give the weight he is carrying. Bobby Kempinski, equipped with blinkers for the first time, tracked Hugo Eternal early on but with the weight of blinkers he is unlikely to travel too far.

Collegewood, who plans to train in Hongkong later in the year, was also on the mark when Irish Gala made virtually all the running to beat Hazard Chase by two lengths in the Smithsons Handicap (4.0). The respective trainers, Bobby Kempinski and the late trainer, who plans to train in Hongkong later in the year, was also on the mark when Irish Gala made virtually all the running to beat Hazard Chase by two lengths in the Smithsons Handicap (4.0).

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Pakeha gets Roberts off the mark in Europe

"Milk" Roberts, five times champion South African jockey, landed his first winner in Europe when the French-bred Pakeha got up in a close finish to land the Auctions Stakes by a short head in the Second Time Lucky at Ayr yesterday.

The race looked all over as Second Time Lucky led two furlongs out, but Roberts refused to be deterred and his mount gained the verdict in the final strides. It was the filly's first appearance in a European race and she drifted in the market from 6-4 to 6-1. Pakeha is likely to make the French 1,000 Guineas on April 30, to go for the Princess Elizabeth Stakes at Epsom.

Gavin Hunter, the trainer, making a rare appearance in Scotland, said: "Pakeha is a nice filly but she still has a lot to learn. I have seen her twice in the past. Generally, the horses and jockeys are better class over here compared with South Africa. It all depends on the race and the jockey. Whether I return in 1979-1 would certainly like to."

Charles Williams, who recently took over from Nigel Angus, sent 10 horses across the road from his stable to the course and had his first winner with Our Foxbar in the Lambeth Stakes. Our Foxbar, bred by Angus, failed to attract a bid at the auction. This was the second leg of a first double for 17-year-old Kevin Darley, who is attached to Rex Hollinshead's yard. Darley, who has now had 13 winners during his career, has been a great success. He has previously won the Bobby Kempinski in the opening race of the season. Bobby Kempinski, equipped with blinkers for the first time, tracked Hugo Eternal early on but with the weight of blinkers he is unlikely to travel too far.

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'Racehorses of 1977' makes a firm forecast for the star of 1978

Flicking through the 1,000 pages of *Racehorses of 1977*, not only gives an exciting recollection of the highlights of last flat season, but also a foretaste of the thrills to store this year.

Racehorses of 1977 is published by the Timeform organization, of Halifax. It has been on sale from March 1, and can be bought from Timeform or most leading bookshops. The book's price of £18 is high, but once again the excellence of its material makes the volume an essential requirement for any serious racing fan. The lengthy essays on the best horses are masterpieces of careful research and analysis. As a result, the book is a valuable aid to the bettor. What they call the bias against stayers in European racing, is attacked in the article on the Ascot Gold Cup winner, Sagaro. Their discussion on John Cherry accuses the Pattern Committee of being and doing the geldings taking part in this race.

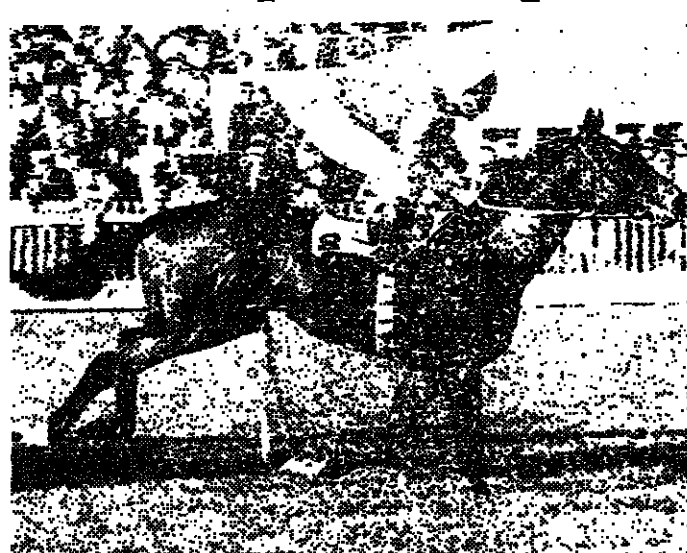
Although their longest discussion is about The Minstrel, Timeform make the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, Alleged, their horse of the year. For my money Alleged's brilliant performance when winning the Epsom Derby and Sussex Stakes makes him nearly Alleged's equal. It is interesting to note that the rating of Alleged is higher than the weight given to the St Leger winner in last year's Free Handicap.

Timeform assess Dufermine as being 4 lb superior to Alleged, that is to say 1 lb worse than weight for sex. This must be considered nearer the mark than the 8 lb difference between the two horses in the Free Handicap. After all, the Queen's filly had the advantage of a mile and a half furlongs from home at Doncaster. She had no luck in running in the Arc and was probably past her best for the season when she ran third to Rex Maga in the French St Leger.

The odds must be on Alleged, proving superior to Dufermine in the important mile distance races this coming season. For one thing, colts tend to make the greater improvement between the year-old and two-year-old stages. But the question is still wide open. The rising generation of three-year-olds is going to have to wait a while before they are put to the test. Apart from Alleged and Dufermine, a fully acclimatized Balmerino is going to prove a formidable force, and what only a few weeks ago was the 1976 St Leger winner, Crow, who is now with Peter Walwyn?

Timeform like to nail their colours to the mast when assessing next season's class prospects. This year they have no hesitation in planning for Vincent O'Brien's unbeaten Northern Dancer colt, Try My Best, a quite rightly deserving favourite for the 2,000 Guineas and of the Derby as well, provided that he stays the distance.

It is difficult to argue with the book's conclusions on this subject.



Try My Best: proven acceleration but untried stamina.

But they make an inaccurate statement. Discussing Try My Best's performance against the Epsom Derby, they say that this performance was a real test of stamina. Tumbledownwind, they therefore question Formidable's stamina. But Formidable had quickened in fine style to overhaul the last-favorite Tumbledownwind that the winner was idling inside the last furlong. This is all just food for thought. However, I take exception to Timeform's criticism of the Derby runner, Sagaro, as being against stayers. The thoroughbred industry throughout the whole world has been looking for a horse to replace Sagaro. The National Stud gave for Sagaro a graphic illustration of this point. It may be a matter of time before Sagaro is replaced. But the clock, and Timeform are attacking the wrong country. This year the Ascot Gold Cup runs with all the more vigour. Sagaro will carry a £5,000 increase in added money. Compare this with France where the value of the Grand Prix de Paris has decreased this season. Also the Prix Royal Oak, the equivalent of our St Leger, will carry the same prize money as the 1977 Prix Royal Oak. Sagaro's contribution to this coming season, an increase of 40 per cent in prize money, is a good indication that the authorities are doing a good job in its distribution.

Michael Seely

Haydock Park programme

2.0 MORNINGTON CANNON STAKES (2-y-o maiden fillies: £1,017: 5f)

1.000000 Vestal Virgin (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Heir To The Throne (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Fair Season (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Salbuck (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Inca Warrior (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Court Lady (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Katie Gay (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Persepolis (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Our Foxbar (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Bobby Kempinski (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Hugo Eternal (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Collegewood (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Irish Gala (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Hazard Chase (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Smithsons Handicap (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000

2.30 FRANK WOITTON HANDICAP (£1,101: 11m 131yd)

1.000000 Fair Season (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Salbuck (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Inca Warrior (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Court Lady (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Katie Gay (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Persepolis (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Our Foxbar (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Bobby Kempinski (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Hugo Eternal (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Collegewood (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Irish Gala (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Hazard Chase (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Smithsons Handicap (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000

3.00 FREDDY FOX HANDICAP (£1,187: 11m 131yd)

1.000000 Fair Season (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Salbuck (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Inca Warrior (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Court Lady (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Katie Gay (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Persepolis (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Our Foxbar (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Bobby Kempinski (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Hugo Eternal (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Collegewood (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Irish Gala (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Hazard Chase (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Smithsons Handicap (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000

4.0 NAT FLATMAN STAKES (3-y-o maidens: £1,023: 11m)

1.000000 Fair Season (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Salbuck (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Inca Warrior (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Court Lady (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Katie Gay (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Persepolis (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Our Foxbar (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Bobby Kempinski (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Hugo Eternal (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Collegewood (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Irish Gala (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Hazard Chase (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Smithsons Handicap (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000

4.30 JOHNNY OSBORNE HANDICAP (3-y-o: £1,205: 6f)

1.000000 Fair Season (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Salbuck (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Inca Warrior (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Court Lady (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Katie Gay (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Persepolis (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Our Foxbar (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Bobby Kempinski (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Hugo Eternal (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Collegewood (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Irish Gala (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Hazard Chase (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000 Smithsons Handicap (P. Mellon, 5-11) 1.000000

By Our Racing Staff

2.0 SALBOB is specially recommended. 2.30 Alde. 3.0 Bad Love. 3.50 Manor Farm Boy. 4.0 Court Lect. 4.30 Inca Warrior.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

3.0 Starling. 3.30 Manor Farm Boy. 4.0 Zoro. 4.30 Hugo Di Tours.

Ayr selections

By Our Racing Staff

2.00 Mibbi. 3.00 Larry. 3.30 Villa Mill. 4.0 Palace Art. 4.30 FRANKLYN is specially recommended. 5.0 Persepolis.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

3.0 Larry. 3.30 Alaskan Prince. 4.0 Observation Star. 4.30 Cry No More.

Social Focus

What happened to the Court report?

"For the Child Health Service" concluded the members of the Court Committee in December 1976, "time is running out". What they were saying in effect was that where health was concerned, British children were not only doing increasingly badly, but that what care they received had come to depend on luck, area and the whim of an inspired doctor or health visitor.

That was 15 months ago. Since then the report has not been debated in the House of Commons. And what official response there has been—Mr David Ennals referred to in his Eleanor Rathbone Memorial Lecture at the end of January—is, some of its authors now feel, both inadequate and extremely disappointing.

By the time of the 1974 National Health reorganization it had become clear to many people in this country that Britain had fallen behind in its child health services. It was not only that it had one of the lowest world rates of infant mortality 20 years ago, it had been overtaken in rapid succession by Finland, Japan and France. But that what is called the business of "preventive medicine"—child and maternity clinics and school health—had come to be regarded as a sort of neglected poor relation, a service in limbo, with no clear future.

The old health visitors, once familiar local figures on their bicycles doing their rounds, had become attached directly to general practitioners and were gradually drifting away from children and towards the elderly. (In 1963, health visitors saw 93 per cent of children under five; in 1974 this had fallen to 77 per cent.)

Most worrying perhaps was the fact that increasing numbers of children seemed to be slipping through the net altogether. The Court Committee was the first one in this country ever set up to consider not the separate child services, but the subject as a whole. A team of 21 professionals and laymen, covering everything from dentistry to paediatric surgery, from social worker to parent, spent three years taking evidence, paying visits, reviewing statistics, and comparing what they found with other countries. Their brief was to find some way of organizing the child services in a rational manner.

Their first recommendation, when the report appeared, was that something must be done, and quickly, or the various systems, already demoralized and sporadic, would collapse altogether. Spelt out, the report was asking for a new integrated child health service with a new breed of general paediatric practitioner (GPP)—an ordinary doctor but given some special training in child development and health. There was, the authors of the report have argued, nothing very radical about this proposal, since individual members of some groups of doctors have in the past few years been developing an informal kind of specialization among themselves. Under their new formal system two doctors in a five to six doctor practice would become GPPs.

Among the various both detailed and general recommendations, the Court report also suggested that health visitors should be encouraged back towards closer dealing with children, that district teams of people specializing in handicaps should be

set up, and that in schools a trained and constantly available school nurse (in the absence of a school doctor) should be on hand—more as counsellor to the children and teachers, than in a narrowly medical capacity.

This last point is very much the theme of the report. The relationship between parent, teacher and professional is what really needs shaking up. Doctors must be willing to share their knowledge and experience with the people who actually spend time with children—their parents and teachers—without feeling threatened and diminished. The emphasis of disease has swung away from acute illness towards congenital and hereditary handicaps so parents now need more general help.

In his Eleanor Rathbone speech, and in a subsequent DHS circular, Mr Ennals accepted the basic principle that the present divided services should be "welded together into an integrated child health service". But he did not agree on the form the service should take, or on the desperate need for change of some kind. For though many of his words echo the Court recommendations they lack one essential element: immediacy.

This is what troubles a number of the committee members. The agreement is there; the suggestions for discussion are outlined. An inspired medical officer would, if he searched, find scope—but he would not find direction. In these days of the "new right" and its enthusiasm may effectively mean a clever way of shelving the report altogether.

Caroline Moorehead

Foster parents: a case for a new look at a vital need

Descriptions of foster-care tend to concentrate on kindly earthmothers and their supportive spouses dispensing quantities of affection to curly-haired toddlers. But the image is misleading, not least when one admits the chilly financial reality as revealed by the Department of Health and Social Security recently.

The DHSS disclosed for the first time the vast disparity in the payments which foster-parents receive in various areas. These "boarding-out" allowances, as they're called, are meant to cover the child's basic needs, including food, clothing and pocket money. In some places, they also include payments for Christmas holidays, birthdays or school uniforms.

The moral from these figures, cruelly, might be: don't foster an 11-month-old child in Walsall, a 4-year-old in Hertfordshire, a 10-year-old in Cheshire, or a 17-year-old in Wandsworth. But to foster a child of any age in the London borough of Camden. Why? Because the places first listed boast among the lowest—and Camden the highest—rates per age of child in the country. Walsall, for example, gives £6.58 for a child under one, as compared with £14.62 for the same child in Camden (and almost as much in Wolverhampton).

Such paltry allowances are only one of the deficiencies of the foster-care service. Even more grave is the isolation suf-

fered by most foster-parents. Last month, publicity was given to a case involving the fostered parents of three youngsters in the London borough of Lambeth. These parents, though encountering problems with their charges, received only irregular help and intermittent visits from social workers.

In desperation, they sent a recorded delivery letter to the council, asking them to take the two elder children away because they couldn't cope. They got no reply. When one of the children had a tantrum at the house, the father phoned the night duty social work staff, who said that nothing could be done till morning. Eventually, the children were taken from the family.

These events, though they have only just come to light, took place a couple of years ago, and one of the causes—Lambeth's severe staff shortage—has now been largely corrected. But the problems which beset foster-parents are fundamental and endemic.

The Lambeth couple clearly needed support, professional help, and training. The difference that these factors make is proven and crucial, and quite easily, ironically, remedied. If to prove the point, Lambeth—along with some 20 other local authorities—is running a special scheme which provides all of those things, and is succeeding famously.

It's one of the so-called professional fostering schemes. Best

known is Kent's special family placement project, the model for many of the others and the subject of a recent TV film.

These projects are an attempt to recruit foster-parents for the kinds of youngsters who were previously thought unfosterable: "problem" teenagers who've been in trouble with the law, or handicapped young people, etc., usually within a defined age-range.

What marks out these foster-parents from the others is that they receive a special payment or wage, in addition to the boarding-out allowance. More important, they undergo preliminary training, which can take the form of courses, information meetings, and discussions with social workers.

They also receive exemplary back-up from the social services departments once they've started fostering, and in Lambeth they meet regularly with other "professional" foster-parents to compare experiences, anxieties, and successes.

One of the reasons that the professional schemes have received only a lukewarm reception from the National Foster Care Association, is because it believes that they divert attention away from the plight of the majority of "traditional" foster-parents. They also point to the illogicality of paying someone extra to look after a disturbed youngster, but not (as far as happens) an equally disturbed 13-year-old.

What's needed, they believe,

Jurisdiction in rates distress cases

Camden London Borough Council v Herwald [1978] 1 QB 273 It was held by the Court of Appeal that a council which had been ordered to pay rates by a magistrates' court was not liable to pay rates by a magistrates' court if it was not a "criminally liable" person.

The Court of Appeal held that the jurisdiction of the magistrates' court to order a council to pay rates was not a "criminal" jurisdiction. The council was not liable to pay rates by a magistrates' court if it was not a "criminally liable" person. The council was not liable to pay rates by a magistrates' court if it was not a "criminally liable" person.

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valuation list remained unaltered. It was the duty of the council to levy the rates in accordance with the valuation list. The council was not liable to pay rates by a magistrates' court if it was not a "criminally liable" person.

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CINEMAS

PRINCE CHARLES, 10.15, 12.15, 2.15, 4.15, 6.15, 8.15, 10.15, 12.15. The Prince of Wales is the subject of a new film. The Prince of Wales is the subject of a new film.

THE NEW OPEN SCENE, 10.15, 12.15, 2.15, 4.15, 6.15, 8.15, 10.15, 12.15. The new open scene is the subject of a new film. The new open scene is the subject of a new film.

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Tilling and Another v Whiteman [1978] 1 QB 273 It was held by the Court of Appeal that a council which had been ordered to pay rates by a magistrates' court was not liable to pay rates by a magistrates' court if it was not a "criminally liable" person.

The Court of Appeal held that the jurisdiction of the magistrates' court to order a council to pay rates was not a "criminal" jurisdiction. The council was not liable to pay rates by a magistrates' court if it was not a "criminally liable" person. The council was not liable to pay rates by a magistrates' court if it was not a "criminally liable" person.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA AND BALLET

COLISEUM Credit cards 01-240 5238
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
 Tonight & Fri. 7.30 Force of Destiny
 Tomorrow & Sat. 7.30 Don Giovanni
 Don Giovanni (final performance) - see below
 Don Giovanni (final performance) - see below
 Don Giovanni (final performance) - see below

COVENT GARDEN CC 240 1204
 Tonight & Fri. 7.30 The Tales of Hoffmann
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THE ARTS

Bourgeois paradise regained

Ever since the press-created outcry about the Carl Andre bricks the Tate have been growing complaints that contemporary art has become too obscure and elitist, and demands that the Tate and other museums should show much wider and more popular selection of what is being done today in the visual arts. This has coincided with and encouraged attempts to look more sympathetically at the artists of the Victorian era who, long despised or laughed at, were highly popular and successful in their time.

The Arts Council have organized an exhibition entitled *Victorian Pictures* which is now at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery until May 7. The Tate has arranged a display from its own collection, *Some Old Favourites*, to May 15, which includes a number of paintings and sculptures which have not been seen for many years and which were once very popular. Among these are Dandy Sadler's *Thursday*, or *Tomorrow will be Friday*, a picture of monks fishing which became famous through engravings, and Henry Tuke's idyl of naked boys swimming from a rowing boat, *August Blue*.

Dealers' galleries have for some years been showing Victorian and Edwardian paintings of this type. Now Fischer Fine Art, which normally shows only twentieth-century works, has put on an exhibition of Victorian artists and their European contemporaries, *The Bourgeois Paradise: Important Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture, 1866-1912*, until May. Although it includes works by artists such as Böcklin, Burne Jones, Dore, Max Klinger and Franz von Stuck, most of them are poor examples. The Böcklin *Der Kampf auf der Brücke III*, *The Battle on the Bridge*, is an absurd picture of nude warriors attacking knights on horseback. The painting by Franz von Stuck, *Phantastische Jagd*, is equally bizarre, but more interesting in its thinly disguised aggression of sex and violence, and better painted. It is a classic masochistic scene of two creatures galloping along through a woodland glade. A centaur, half horse, half woman, with long flowing hair is shooting the other creature, half stag, half man, with a bow and arrow. The picture shows the moment when the arrow pierces him, horned head thrown back in an expression of horror and fear.

The best, and most recent, painting is Max Klinger's *Frühling* from a series representing the four ages of a world which was exhibited in a room at the Grosse Kunstausstellung in Dresden in 1912. A pensive young woman leans against the side of a picture, presumably designed to hang in the corner of the room, with a background of a breezy-looking March sky. The technique and colours are false, although the subject and its treatment are superb. The painting related to a scheme originally commissioned for the Villa Albers in Berlin in 1883. This is the only work in the exhibition which could be regarded as "important". The sculptures by Klinger are awful, as are those by Dalou and Gilibert. Most of the English paintings are equally bad, although Frank Cadogan Cowper's *St Francis surrounded by doves kneeling before an angel perched in an olive tree*, *St Francis of Assisi and the Heavenly Melody*, and William Stott's *Oldham's medieval couple carting in the forest glade*, *The Happy Valley*, are so ridiculous they are almost laughable. But they are neither good nor important.

The *Bourgeois Paradise* might have been better titled for the exhibition of etchings, drypoints and mezzotints by J. J. Tissot, at the Lumley Cazalet Gallery until April 21. Tissot was a French painter who spent much of his working life in England. He was a friend of Degas, and of the Concourts, who compared him to Manet. Ruskin described him as "a painter of vulgar society", which is nearer the truth. He made his reputation as a Salon painter during the Second Empire. When the Franco-Prussian war brought that era to an end he came to London after the Commune. He was successful in England as he had been in Paris. In 1874 Degas wrote asking him to exhibit in the first Impressionist exhibition. Had he done so his work might have developed differently.

In London Tissot lived with a beautiful Irish divorcee, Mrs Kathleen Newton, at Grove End Road, St John's Wood, a house later bought and occupied by Arthur Tappan. The colonnade in the garden often features in Tissot's paintings and prints. Most of the prints on show record the bourgeois paradise which Tissot and Mrs Newton created for themselves. Grove End Road until her death from consumption in 1882. She was also the model for the etching illustrating Edmond de Goncourt's novel *Renée Mauperin*, the heroine of which dies of heart disease.

After her death Tissot returned to Paris, where he resumed his paintings of fashionable society. His work is interesting because it hints at the repressions, frustrations and hypocrisy under the Victorian upper-middle-class society, although to compare him to Henry James, as Jane Abdy does in the catalogue introduction, is absurd. Marie Corelli would be nearer the mark. At the end of his life Tissot underwent a religious conversion, and his final works were a series of over 500 lithographs and engravings in two



Max Klinger: Spring

volumes illustrating the New Testament. These too, before France and England. A copy is exhibited in the *Great Victorian Pictures* exhibition.

Jane Abdy refers to Tissot's great financial acumen. Rosemary Trade in her excellent introduction to the catalogue of *Great Victorian Pictures* describes how artists became businessmen themselves, amassing vast fortunes, much of it from the sale of the copyright in engravings of their paintings. The new Victorian rich displayed their wealth by collecting pictures and the middle classes aped them at one remove by buying prints of the most popular works. Because the new audience had little experience of, or educated taste for, art they looked to critics and reviewers to form it for them. The power of these was enormous. By 1892 the Royal Academy Press Day was attended by 300 reviewers. The *Punch* cartoonist John Leach thanked Thackeray for a review in *The Times*. "That's like putting a thousand pounds into my pocket".

The exhibition is supplied with informative printed material, including the works to their time. The selection of paintings and prints shows how Victorian taste extended from illustra-

Standing out by class or cleverness

KIDS Gala
Drury Lane

John Percival

The really clever thing, when one is in a gala like the one at Drury Lane on Sunday (in aid of KIDS, a fund for handicapped children), is to have a party piece well outside the usual run of operatic or balletic excerpts. It was a special pleasure to hear Benjamin Luxon and Robert Tear in their only slightly burlesqued duet, to see Wayne Sleep's witty condensation of a dozen or more styles and mannerisms (including Nureyev, Curry and Korbut) into one solo or to hear his plea, abetted by Lucia Popp, that really "I want to sing in opera".

The other way to stand out is by virtue of innate, radiant merit: sheer class. That explains the tumultuous reception of Victoria de los Angeles in the Habanera and Seguidilla from *Carmen*, even

if she might not now be an obvious choice for the role. It was present also in the contributions of two fine male dancers who came specially for the occasion.

James Schanuff crossed the Atlantic to dance the *Don Quixote* showpiece duet with Lesley Collier; for bravura virtuosity and daredevil attack you will find it hard to beat him anywhere today. Maris Liepa, from the Bolshoi, had learnt a new piece for the occasion. Ashton's *Sylvia* was a deservedly popular and unexpected jewel of classical perfection which he and Doreen Wells invested with an ideal mixture of delicacy and strength.

Among the other contributions, Marion Tait's twinkling account of John Cranko's comic *Tristram* and Masha Goleva's serene recital of Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky pas de deux* were notably apt gala fare, and if a scene from *Der Freischütz* seemed a less appropriate choice, Lucia Popp and Hannelore Bode made it useful by their performance.

Howard Shelley

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Joan Chissell

Howard Shelley has always been an uncommonly fluent pianist. But I have rarely heard him play with more technical assurance, total strength and general aplomb than in his recital on

The bullet that didn't stop a revolution

Atlanta, Georgia

Ten years ago today a murderer stopped Martin Luther King, but not his revolution. The old apartheid of the south has largely been ended, and black people steadily take a fuller part in the management, and enjoyment, of the society they share.

"God knows, there is still a long road to tread", Mrs Coretta Scott King said, reflecting on the decade since her husband's death. "There are still big wrongs to right. But it is important to draw strength from achievements. Martin had his dream—and parts of it have come true sooner than any of us dared hope."

After all, she said, it was not that long ago that black people suffered the oppression and indignities of the south's rigid and backward social system. Not only were they at the bottom of the economic heap—they also endured the constant hurts of segregation—the segregated restaurants, drinking fountains and buses.

It was on one of these buses, in Montgomery, Alabama, in December, 1955, that Martin Luther King's revolution first smouldered. A black woman refused to give up her seat to a white passenger and was

arrested. King, the new minister of a local Baptist church, joined in organizing a boycott of Montgomery's buses which lasted 13 months until the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was unconstitutional.

By this time Martin Luther King was a leader of his people, setting a pattern of strong, patient, non-violent protest in the Gandhian fashion. With his electrifying speeches he drew together the brave and the large number of unsure, even frightened, people who were to challenge a monstrous social and political system and overthrow it.

Martin Luther King was arrested and imprisoned many times during the long civil rights campaign. In spite of the brutalities that people suffered at the hands of the police, and others, he never wavered from the non-violent approach, warning in a letter from Birmingham jail that the alternatives would be a "frightening racial nightmare". Great marches, prayer vigils and rallies—and King's oratory—marked the steady erosion of segregation. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, the year the civil rights Bill was passed.

"Civil rights were one thing, but Martin always knew that

black people needed economic rights as well", Mrs King said. "Our battle now is for jobs and we are working in support of the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill that aims to bring full employment."

The issue of economic rights drew Martin Luther King to Memphis. He went to speak in support of a garbage workers' strike. "When he was killed I determined to work hard to carry on his ideas. I have been an activist all my adult life", Mrs King said. One of her main interests is the Martin Luther King Centre for Social Change, which is being built around her husband's tomb in Atlanta. It will be a study and research centre.

Her home in Atlanta is full of pictures, plaques and awards, the reminders of two lives of service. "Life in the south is much better now, for both blacks and whites. Martin always said it would be a fine place to live when the prejudice was gone."

It was always the south that had a bad name for prejudice, although events showed there was just as much in the north. But racial tension has declined a lot throughout the United States.

"When I look around I am

amazed at some of the changes in our society. There are black mayors, legislators, policemen—black people in jobs they just could not get into a few years ago, and these dreadful old racist policemen—you don't hear them now. They've been chased from the scene, or they've shut up. Even policemen have learned to be polite."

Mrs King's views are reflected throughout the south. In Memphis, Walter Walker, a black college president, said: "I think race relations are better in the south than in the north. It is maybe because blacks and whites in the south have greater experience of each other."

"Actually I cannot think of a single civil rights measure we need now. I believe that in the end racism can work itself out. But somehow we have to be firm in overcoming the greatest difficulty facing black people today: their lack of jobs. Unemployment among the young is huge and dangerous. Only jobs, and the money and dignity that go with them, will give blacks a truly equal place in society."

Trevor Fishlock



Dr Martin Luther King, second right, stands on the balcony of the Memphis motel in the same spot where he was shot the day after this picture was taken.

Bernard Levin

Ecstasy indeed in Blake's blinding light



Above, from Blake's allegorical painting of Newton. Far right, the artist [from an engraving by Schiavonetti].

Blake is a problem—so much of a problem, indeed, that many have tended to solve it by classifying him as little better than mad, which is very convenient, as it means that no further examination of what inspired him is necessary. More to the point, and very much to Blake's own point, too, dismissing him as a self-contained eccentric means that there is no longer any necessity to discover just what it is about him that disturbs us. The same thing is true, of course, of Wagner: if you go about parroting "Noise... no tunes... too long... fat singers... and the like, you never need to ask why he has such an effect on you. After all, you can dislike the music of any other composer without feeling the need to rationalize your feelings by projecting them on to his attitudes, and exactly the same is true of Blake. Have you ever heard anybody who doesn't care to look at the pictures of Franz Hals or Renoir or Hockney denouncing them in terms of personal injury, as though these painters only existed to do harm to the complacent? Obviously not; those who do not like them are content to ignore them, as are those who can hear nothing to their taste in the music of Haydn or Britten.

Yet Blake is virtually accused of creeping into people's bedrooms at night with dangerous weapons. Which, of course, is exactly what he does do; whence the hostility, for although Blake hits us on the head for our own good, it is undeniably difficult for us to understand this while we are concentrating on soothing the bruises. And yet if you go to the Blake exhibition at the Tate, where there are more than 300 of his paintings, drawings, illuminations and etchings to be seen, the disturbance he causes cannot so easily be ignored, rationalized, transferred or resolved.

The important thing about Blake was that he really did mean what he said. A man who could typically begin a poem with the words they may well construe the most arresting opening line in English literature: "You must agree that Rubens was a fool" puts himself immediately into a position in which he is obliged either to make good his assertions or be dismissed as a charlatan. Blake has frequently been dismissed as a charlatan; but only, I feel, by those unable to face the possibility that he might be speaking the literal truth.

Not, perhaps, about Rubens, for whether Rubens and Caravaggio were as bad as Blake thought them, or Raphael as good, is not very important. And it is not difficult to nod patronizingly in agreement at

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Kill not the moth nor butterfly, For the Last Judgment draweth nigh

or at The strongest poison ever known Came from Caesar's laurel crown

or at Every harlot was a virgin once or even at If the fool would persist in his folly he would become wise.

But when Blake said "What", it will be questioned, "when the sun rises, do you not see a round disc of fire somewhat like a guinea?" "O no, no, I see an immortal company of the heavenly host crying 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty!'"

It is a little difficult, and indeed uncomfortable, for us to understand that he meant it, especially when we learn that he wrote it in the preface to a catalogue of his works accompanying an exhibition, where today we are more accustomed to encounter tactile values, the influence of a seaside upbringing or the shamefully parsimonious attitude of the Arts Council. (Not, I must add, that anything of the kind is to be found in the excellent catalogue for this exhibition.)

It is not enough, though it is certainly true, to say that

Blake was God-driven. The question is: where did he think God was driving him, and why? He clearly believed not just that "everything that lives is holy", but that that was equally true of every grain of sand in the universe; he no less clearly felt the principle of energy that fills everything—if you close your eyes and try to conjure up a typical Blake, you will always see motion, whether in the form of streaming hair or garments or in that of the sun's rays, and at the face the walls seem to quiver with the representations of unchained energy.

On those walls we can see Blake arguing that the universe, for all its incessant whirling, its perpetual pouring out of light and heat, its continual vibration to the music of the spheres, is one by nature, and everything in it is part of the force that set it in motion. Within this truth, there was another concentrically embedded; that although everything in the universe is part of the force at its centre, it cannot be understood or even measured by reason, and indeed does not depend upon reason for its essence. Everything in the universe is there because it has to be there, including Satan and the Great Beast, though the presence of these is not to be explained by Newton's principle that for every action there is an equal and opposite

reaction. Newton, indeed, is a limiting force for Blake, who is at the opposite pole from Pope's

Nature and Nature's laws lay hid in night: God said Let Newton be! and all was light.

Blake was born almost exactly half-way through the eighteenth century, but the Enlightenment is his great enemy, precisely because it believed that human reason could encompass all understanding. Encompass: Blake's allegorical portrait of Newton shows him drawing with a compass. The catalogue refers the reader to a parallel drawing three years later, done to accompany the profoundly significant text: "He who sees the Infinite in all things sees God. He who sees the Ratio only sees himself only."

It does not seem to be going at all too far to say that for me the Blake exhibition (compiled and catalogued by Mr Martin Butlin) makes coherent and consistent sense of Blake

for the first time. If you look at the Urizen plates (from the British Museum) or *Elohim Creating Adam* (from the Tate's own collection) in isolation, you could well believe that Blake was a mystic, casting no general light on the ground that ordinary men must walk. Blake was a mystic, but he cast on the ground we walk a light so blinding that, if we open our eyes, we can see nothing else, and the value of seeing a really large and really representative selection of his visual achievement (not that he made any distinction between the painted word or the written) is to come face to face with a man whose vision was part of all things, as all things were part of him. Ecstasy and light stream from the Tate's exhibition, and not surprisingly: Blake's vision was made up of those two elements, and when he said he saw the heavenly host at sunrise, and heard them singing, he meant what he said. Blake's vision was made up of those two elements, and when he said he saw the heavenly host at sunrise, and heard them singing, he meant what he said.

On one side is the Group of 77, consisting of more than 100 developing states. On the other are the developed, technologically advanced countries, who have the finance and the know-how to conduct mining operations on the deep-sea bed for manganese, nodules, rich in cobalt, copper and nickel.

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CORRECTION

Mr N. P. McKegg, Chairman of the Cook Islands Trading Corporation, asks us to make clear that, contrary to statements in an article on the Cook Islands on December 2, 1977, his company has not been acquired by Chinese interests. His family held a 75 per cent share in the Cook Islands Trading Company, of which A. B. Donald (C.I.) Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary; Jardine Matheson and a London merchant bank each held a 12½ per cent share of the company.

The key to the law of the sea

Observers of the past few sessions of the United Nations law of the sea conference can be forgiven a stifled yawn on hearing the session which started last week in Geneva described as "make-or-break" or "critical". It has been the custom to suggest at the beginning of each series of talks that dire consequences would result if no agreement was reached by the end, including the break-up of the conference and the chaotic resort to unilateral action on the part of the 150 states represented. The past three sessions in 1976 and 1977, however, have seen just enough progress to justify the holding of another one, and the feared anarchy has not occurred. But that process cannot go on indefinitely. There must come a time when either agreement is reached, and a convention is signed, or the conference does indeed break up. Of the more than 300 articles in the "Informal Composite Negotiating Text" (ICNT), the latest of a series of equally inelegantly described documents on which the discussions take place, the vast majority are agreed, and have been for some time.

There are a number of issues still left to be settled, but there is only one which matters: the deep-sea mining regime. If that can be agreed, all the others will fall into place. If agreement cannot be reached on mining, there will be no law of the sea convention at all. Five years of negotiations will have been in vain, and the only legacy will be bitterness between the third world and the industrialized countries. Deep-sea mining has ceased to be a technical legal problem. The division exhibited at the law of the sea conference is political, and has close links with similar divisions in the North-South dialogue and UNCTAD (the trade and development conference).

On one side is the Group of 77, consisting of more than 100 developing states. On the other are the developed, technologically advanced countries, who have the finance and the know-how to conduct mining operations on the deep-sea bed for manganese, nodules, rich in cobalt, copper and nickel.

The Group of 77 wants to participate in the mining, and in the profits which will eventually be made. That right has been conceded from the start (the sea outside territorial zones is supposed to be used "for the benefit of mankind"), and an elaborate machinery has been worked out, with an International Sea-Bed Authority as its central pivot, to ensure that the poorer countries get their fair share of benefits from the resources on the sea bed, and that the mining consortia, who have the technological knowledge, are able to sustain a com-

mercially viable operation, are, after all, in it for the money. Unfortunately, the ICNT that aspect is heavily weighted in favour of the Group of 77, and gives the international authority a great deal of power, which means a great deal under what conditions. The recent text is totally unacceptable to the countries involved in mining, especially the United States. The mining consortia cannot see themselves accept a regime which would dictate powers over their activities. But there is a risk to believe that both sides will prefer to compromise rather than to scuttle the whole conference.

Both the United States and the House of Representatives have Bills near to being passed which would allow a mission to be given to mining consortia to begin operations immediately, if the national conference fails to reach agreement. It is not in the interests of the Group of 77 to have that happen, because it would mean that, instead of having some influence over mining activities, and get some of the profits, they would be left with the bill while the consortia reap the rewards, with no obligation to share.

Apart from mining, the issues still outstanding are on their own, posing a threat to general consensus. Among them are the demarcation of the land-locked and geographically disadvantaged states, for access to the sea, participation in activities such as fishing. That issue raised the ludicrous situation of Britain's EEC partner, Denmark, claiming to be a land-locked country, which directly in the face of its maritime policy and practice, procedure to settle disputes, has not been agreed, nor has the definition of the continental margin, some aspects of the delimitation of maritime zones.

Those who have lost mind the negotiations have been idealists. The stirring promise of a brave new ocean regime which a vast part of the world's waters would belong to nations and be developed for the benefit of all, especially poorer among them, was a rendered an impossible dream by the agreement on the mile exclusive economic zone which confirmed the barrier, extensive territorial jurisdiction rather than breaking it down. It should be said that countries of the third world might have benefited from a large international pool, were as keen as the rich nations on acquiring their exclusive area of ocean territory.

On the assumption, probably founded, that nothing the Geneva session will either particularly smoothly or speculatively wrong, it is realistic to hope for 1979 to be the year in which a global law of the sea convention is the signed.

Marcus Berli
Legal Correspondent

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

Unquestionably, Mr Roberts makes history

For Gwilym Roberts, Labour MP for Cannock, yesterday was the day he achieved a kind of immortality. But when I spoke to the eloquent Welshman shortly before the historic deed, he told me that his trepidation was only minimal.

Mr Roberts has gone down in history as the first MP to ask a question when Westminster Radio went on the air on a regular and permanent basis.

As to why it was his question, and not someone else's that set the ball rolling, he said to me that although there were some marginal techniques in getting questions to the top of the list he had to admit that his success was largely a question of chance.

His question yesterday was about the total of Welsh speakers. Sadly, not a question to set off fireworks either from himself or John Morris, the Secretary of State for Wales who answered it.

And, mention of pyrotechnics, reminds me that it is this

self-same Mr Roberts whose Bill for tougher fireworks laws has helped to take some of the terror out of Guy Fawkes Night in the nation's back gardens.

He sees the broadcasting of Parliament as an important step in the strengthening of the links between Westminster and the people. He sees it, too, as a probationary period in the event of TV cameras moving into the Commons and Lords—a prospect he does not altogether relish. He is a keen parliamentary committee man, and his main fear is that the lure of the camera might prove stronger than the call of the committee room where so much vital business is done.

The advent of the microphone as a new monitoring device coincides with the introduction of another kind of parliamentary monitoring idea, the branch of Jeff Rooker, Labour MP for Perry Barr.

He says he has noticed a few discrepancies in what Mrs Thatcher says in the Commons and what she says when she goes on her walkabouts.

In the current issue of Labour Weekly, the party's newspaper, he appeals for readers' help in compiling lists of such discrepancies. The project carries the code-name

4Four Simon wasn't young

enough to be famous in the sixties and too old to be famous in 1989...



Operation Maggie, a tag for which Labour Weekly and not Mr Rooker must take the blame.

Fleet Street's Black Week: a PS

A sour little malapiece about Fleet Street's black week. The London newspaper wholesalers' dispute with members of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat), which prevented distribution of all morning papers in London last week, and the Great British talks at the TUC on Friday. Ended, that is, except at one old-established wholesaler's south of the river.

While staff at every other firm worked normally to restore to Londoners their daily diet of essential reading, the Sogat father of the chapel (print

language for senior shop steward) stood fast at this wholesale.

"No, he told the management, he had not been told 'officially' that an interim settlement had been reached and the overtime ban called off."

The result was that yesterday, four days after peace was declared, 150,000 copies of national papers, including 6,000 of *The Times*—back for the first time after its separate dispute with the engineers—never arrived at newsagents.

Petka, Chapayev and the bomb

Two stock characters in Soviet jokes are Chapayev (actually hero of the post-revolutionary civil war) and his loyal assistant Petka. They have now turned their attention to the neutron bomb. Petka asks Chapayev what is this bomb about which he has heard so much. Chapayev answers: "You know Red Square? Imagine every square metre covered with a crate of vodka bottles—thousands and thousands of crates all over the square. On top of the crates are piled more crates, high and higher until they are level with the top of St Basil's cathedral. All are full of vodka bottles, unopened. And there is no one left to drink them. That's the neutron bomb."

Good times for the baddies

The 491 new or reelected members of the French National Assembly met yesterday for the first time since the elections, and they were probably bursting with good intentions about what they were going to do to prove themselves good and worthy members.

I wonder whether they need trouble themselves unduly. The weekly news magazine *Le Point* keeps close tabs on how good the members are, and regularly publishes a league table to show who are doing their job most conscientiously. The preselection table showed that the best five were Claude Gerbet, Eugene Claudius-Petit, Charles Bignon, André Fastron and Emmanuel Hamel. The worst five were Georges Pinaut, Jacques Chaban-Delmas, Marcel Dassault, Jean-Louis Massoubre and Robert Hersant.

The only one of the "goodies" to be reelected was Emmanuel Hamel. The only one of the "baddies" to lose his seat was Robert Hersant—the proprietor of, among others, *Le Figaro* and *France Soir*.

From safety first to safety last

When the Duke of Gloucester visits Epping Forest next month to join in the centenary celebrations of that shrunken Essex woodland, he might notice that not all is well in the leafy glades.

The Duke, who is head ranger, could find himself in the middle of a rumpus caused by the slaughter of more than 40 of the forest's dwindling herd of black fallow deer.

The culling was ordered by the Conservators, Epping Forest who, in 1961, confined the threatened herd to a special 110-acre sanctuary to protect them against motorists and the march of progress.

The deer were shot by marks-

men and sold as venison a few days ago—an unannounced start to the centenary celebrations of the 1878 Epping Forest Act.

Though not quite as vocal as the reaction to the cull of the Newfoundland seals, it protest which followed furious letters to John Bigg-Davison, Tory MP for Epping Forest, and to local newspaper.

The 1878 Act made the Corporation of the City of London the trustee of the forest in place of the Crown, and the Corporation appointed conservators, a mandate to preserve the natural aspect of the forest. Local people believe the conservators have conspicuous failed to do this by reducing the precious herd by about third.

The Conservators claim a cull was necessary because a sanctuary was unable to support 120 deer, but many local believe the sanctuary shot have been extended.

My recent disclosure that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is spending more time ensuring the safety of a swarm of enormous toads in the grounds of its Redfordshire headquarters than it is on its feathered friends, has apparently not gone unnoticed by the bird world. I am told that, at the society's annual conference at York University over the weekend, an unfortunate mallard found itself trapped in a junior common room. It seems that the sight of a thousand ornithologists forced it to crash-dive straight through a window and escape to the safe of the campus where it is recovering from a very sore head.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

X cuts cost

communications services and facilities for the customer in the future. For industry, Statecraft has been designed to become fully integrated with world markets, and therefore to give a big fillip to British exports in telecommunications.

But System X is part of a revolution in telecommunications that is taking place all over the world, in which established forms of transmission, switching, signalling and control are giving way to new ones. Thus analogue transmission is giving way to digital, electro-mechanical switching is giving way to electronic switching—and digital microelectronic switching in particular—and the information carried is being sent by wire control calls (and to manage the overall system) is increasingly processed and transmitted as digital data.

The impact to the customer of these innovations cannot be overestimated. In the coming decades they will bring about striking changes in the costs and capabilities of telecommunications networks.

Many of the basic concepts used in System X—and comparable developments elsewhere—have their origins in the pioneer work carried out in Britain in the 1950s and 1960s. Pulse code modulation—the basis of the digital transmission of speech—was a British invention; many of the switching principles used in digital switching were first recognized in the United Kingdom. Live service traffic was first switched digitally through an experimental crossbar switch. This Empress exchange in London in the late 1960s, and under processor control at Moorgate a short time later.

Joint studies in the early 1970s showed that the scale of the task required for a coordinated attack by the manufacturers, and that even with their combined resources it was essential to rationalize design problems and to meet home and export requirements with the same basic equipment. This meant a relationship in which the export and production interests of industry, and the service and operational interests of the Post Office, could all be taken into account. It was to be a long system development; and in which the specification of requirements could iterate with design in ways that enabled the most effective overall course to be identified and followed at all stages.

The resulting relationship is based on collaboration in the development of strategies for System X and in the definition and coordination of development projects. These are carried out through contracts let and funded by the Post Office, which provides for the interchange of design and information to enable each firm to play its part in the development programme and the subsequent supply of equipment. A close watch is kept on expenditure against budgets, and the overall economic value of the development.

Altogether, the prospects are excellent, and the collaborative arrangements are working well; they have, for example, overcome the difficulties of reconciling Post Office and export requirements and of establishing standards for work. Good use has been made too of the opportunities for interaction and iteration in the specification and design processes.

But with processes are essentially changing, and necessarily so at a time of rapidly changing technology when new and potentially advantageous microelectronic devices become available almost weekly; when, collection of telecommunications users are becoming increasingly interested in an expanding range of services and facilities—voice, visual and data; and when success in exports means meeting the overseas market's requirements quickly and effectively.

Fortunately the concepts of System X lend themselves to the dynamic approach to development and many of its features are specifically intended to be continued on next page

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It means advanced research and development facilities.

A new medium brings the message

by Peter Fletcher

By this time next year the British will be able to do something that no other nation can. They will have available—in their homes and offices—a public utility service which will be capable of meeting almost all their needs for information.

It will be randomly selectable and accessible on demand, and be designed to help them with their work or their leisure.

It will be a new communications medium. The British will be the first to use a public service Viewdata system.

Viewdata is one of two techniques—both British in origin—designed to allow the generation, storage, transmission and reception of personalized data. The other technique is known generally as Teletext and is used by the television broadcasting agencies—the BBC and the ITV companies. Both techniques make use of a modified television receiver to display text and simplified graphics to communicate their messages.

Although the two systems were invented independently, the case of Viewdata, the Post Office, quickly realized the advantages of adopting a common standard for the display format. As a result both systems use the same type style, the same layout of characters on a page and the same technique for graphics design, so that the user the display on his screen is much the same whether watching Viewdata or Teletext.

Teletext is received by way of the television set's aerial, intermixed with the normal television signal. It is impressed on to a few of the 625 lines which go to make up the television picture. It is therefore a broadcast system and as such cannot easily be adapted to the needs of a specific, individual user.

Viewdata on the other hand is received as an audio signal comprising a number of tones which can be transmitted along conventional domestic telephone wires. Use can therefore be made of the complex and enormous public telephone network which the Post Office has built up over the past few generations for access to the computers on which the information is stored.

The Viewdata-adapted television receiver then becomes effectively a complex telephone instrument which, connected into the telephone network can correspond with the data storage and control computers. In effect it allows its user to hold a "conversation" with the computer, the human operator using a simple key-pad to talk to the machine, and the machine answering with written information on the screen.

In this way the user can tell the computer exactly which bits of information he reads and can call pages out of the machine in any order he requires. And not only can the user retrieve information previously constructed and stored, but in a limited way he can also send his own information to the machine for storage and subsequent retrieval by a third party. In other words, using the jargon of the industry, the Viewdata system is fully "interactive".

The computer industry and its customers have been extracting data from a computer "database" in a way of a telephone wire and displaying them on a television tube for many years. What is new, however, is the use of a basic domestic telephone network rather than an expensive and specialized visual display unit (VDU) connected to a plain ordinary telephone system (POTS) with all the implications of routing calls through several telephone exchanges, rather than specially installed direct data lines, and making the data stored in the database accessible by anyone who cares to buy a terminal rather than a specialist user.

The result has been the need for television manufacturers to develop new types of circuitry, and to involve themselves to some extent in the telecommunications industry. For use with Viewdata the television is required to be at the same time a telephone and a device able to convert the computer-like digital signals needed to form the characters it has to display. These are generated by keys on the user's control pad from and into the audio tones for transmission through the telephone network—a function usually performed in data communications systems by a device known as a modem.

The result will be a terminal which on the press of a single button—

rather like another channel selector—automatically dial the number of the Viewdata computer centre, recognize the answering signal from the computer, reveal its own individual identity to the machine and when correct is established produce a display which a human being can read.

In this form it will plug directly into a standard telephone jack socket. However, until the industry succeeds in miniaturizing the circuitry required for these functions the television industry is unable to fit it satisfactorily into anything but the cabinet of a television set with a large tube. As a result the first Viewdata receivers to become available will be 26in models.

At the same time the industry is making the opportunity to introduce other new features and most of these sets will have a facility for remote control. This is essential in any case since a user constantly entering instructions to the Viewdata computer will want to be able to do from the comfort of his armchair. The first of these sets will be available from June although these will be used for a special purpose, and there will be relatively few people able to obtain one. Sets will be in the shops

Adapted from portable receivers

for general sale in the early part of 1979.

At the same time telecommunications companies may be used to making telephone equipment for the Post Office are finding themselves being drawn into the television industry. Several of these companies such as STC, GEC and Pye TMC are developing circuitry for which until Viewdata came along there was no call—the businessman's television set.

In general these will have a small screen—with a tube no bigger than about 12in—capable of displaying only black and white pictures and intended not to take up too much office desk space. Some—those from GEC and Rank Radio—will be adapted from portable television receivers. Others—those from STC and Pye TMC—will be specially developed.

At present all these Viewdata sets are virtually hand-

made and as such are expensive to produce. The domestic 26in sets, for example, cost about £1,400 to make. However, as the service becomes generally available in the first quarter of 1979 and production volumes increase, accordingly, costs will reduce. In the meantime, the service is to be run on a trial basis from June and sets will be placed with people who agree to have their use of the system closely monitored, and to be interviewed at intervals on their reactions to the new medium.

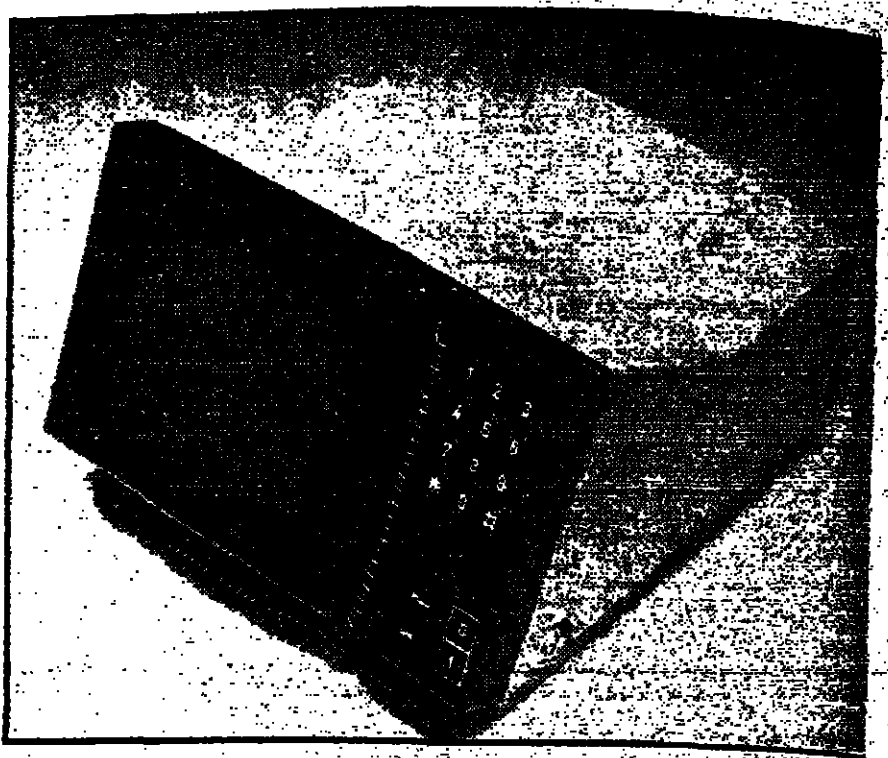
These lucky people will have their sets at a highly subsidized rate—up to £18 a month on rental or between £500 and £700 if they choose to buy. Business people who choose to test the system in black and white will be charged £12 a month for their terminals. However, there will be only about 1,500 people chosen for the trial and they will live or work in London, Birmingham or Norwich.

Obviously the hardware is of little use if the information which it will be used to retrieve is not both needed and structured in such a way that the particular piece required by any individual can be readily identified and efficiently accessed.

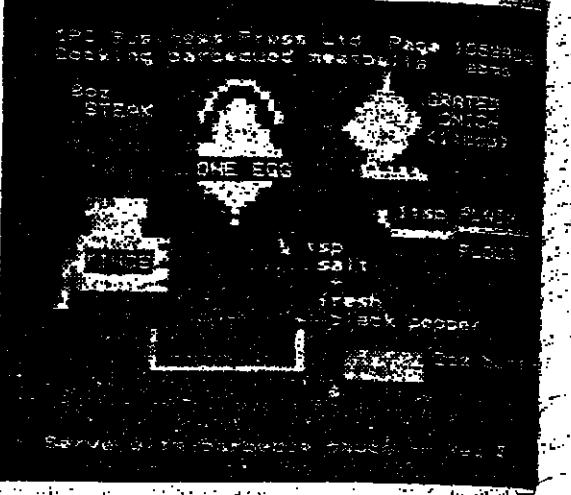
Although the Post Office devised Viewdata and owns the computer data storage centres, it will exercise no control, beyond what is legally required of any publisher, over the information stored in the system. The information will be devised, designed and owned by the third group involved in the project known as Information Providers.

Thus, in the same way that a user of the public Viewdata service will buy or rent his terminal from his own company or a television retailer—the purchase of information from the system will be a personal deal with the provider of the information. Each page or "frame" of information will be charged for at a rate set by the information provider who owns it. The price will be shown on each frame and will vary from a true cost to the use of zero to an upper limit depending on the value the information provider believes users will place on specialized information.

Prices will be adjustable to tens of a penny. This money will be collected for



A specially developed businessman's Viewdata terminal soon to enter pilot production. Made by Standard Telephones & Cables, it has a 7in screen. Right: simple graphics can be used to construct trend graphs, or to present simple recipes in a novel manner for the user at home.



the information providers by the Post Office who will present the user with a total bill each month. In addition the user will have to pay for his telephone calls to the Viewdata centre, which will be at local rates.

The variety of information which will be available—even for the trial service—can be gauged from the fact that more than 90 organizations have contracted with the Post Office for the storage of their information. They extend from publishers of magazines and newspapers, to Government departments, local authorities, non-profit-making organizations such as the Sports Council, to mail order companies, advertising agencies, financial institutions and even a few companies specially set up to provide Viewdata services.

The author is Viewdata manager, IPC Business Press.

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Getting the best out of the Post Office

by Pearce Wright

Sniping at the Post Office services is a sport in which most of us join from time to time: usually from frustration when encountering a bad telephone connexion or similar mishap.

Yet there have been striking technical changes in the telecommunications services in the United Kingdom, not least with the introduction of data communication services for the transmission of computer information by banks, insurance companies, oil corporations, local authorities, government departments and a host of manufacturing organizations.

The transmission of computer data has been accompanied by the birth of the specialist organization providing a network over which information can be sent for processing at a large centre catering for a variety of commercial and technical needs.

There are two types of operators of these computer data networks. Banks and airlines, for example, come into a category in which plans can be made five to six years ahead about the number of offices and branches to be connected to the system.

The second, and fascinating,

group of networks belongs to the handful of service companies offering a wide variety of expert computer services over the telephone line. One of the largest in Europe is Scicon (Scientific Computer Systems), a computer centre in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, to which links are made in the United Kingdom and international telephone lines.

Similarly, a company in the United States such as National CSS, with a computer centre in Norwalk, Connecticut, receives calls from organizations in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe wanting to use a special programming system for forecasting sales and so forth. The particular method of service is known as the Box and Jenkins technique was devised by two eminent professors of statistics, one of them British and one American.

Companies such as Scicon face a set of technical problems in organizing their affairs which are different from those of the first group with computer networks linking together a number of fixed locations. The second category is much more dependent upon the quality of the public telecommunications system.

The Scicon company, for instance, has developed a programme by which farmers can calculate the best nutritional and most economical feed mix to formulate for their stock. The calculation can be done by a portable data terminal that enables information to be fed through a telephone handset to the computer using the public Post Office lines. The equipment is carried by representatives of animal feed firms.

A similar but more regular task of calculating the best way to use available materials in two of the British Steel Corporation's stainless steel works demands a different type of data communication circuit between the steelworks and the computer centre. This application of computers depends on an advanced mathematical programming technique devised by the service company.

A large volume of technical information flows between the steelworks and the computer centre over a state Post Office line. Many other examples exist of a whole new marketplace created by combining data processing, communications, data bases, computer programming for time-shared networks and a host of other areas of technical knowledge.

The success of these networks is clearly dependent on the quality of the telecommunications agency from which telephone lines and radio circuits for data communication are obtained.

In the United Kingdom, for instance, an operator of networks must know how to get the best out of the Post Office. Indeed, Scicon has invested heavily in that goal. At the computer centre in Milton Keynes there is special apparatus to test the quality of telephone lines suspected of performing below the desirable standard.

That is bound to occur because the minimum quality of service provided by the Post Office for all its subscribers may not meet with the special needs of a network serving a wide variety of users. Thus the test equipment used by Scicon can analyse the frequency spectrum of a transmission line which has come under suspicion, in order to explain to the Post Office in what way the link has gone wrong.

each country.

An investment of £20,000 has been made in equipment identical to that used by the Post Office and in building a team of line engineers to maintain a large network in constant operation. The advantage is that once forewarned of the nature of a technical change in the transmission line, Post Office engineers quickly establish where and what has happened to cause the change in status.

The complexity of the issues clearly increases with the development of international networks, and these are developing very rapidly. A special scheme called Euronet, for instance, is being created under an agreement between the telecommunications administrations of the nine EEC countries to connect a large number of data banks together. Access to the network is over telephone lines to the nearest computer-controlled Euronet exchange; there is one for each country.

X cuts costs

continued from previous page

modification of individual modules. Equally important is that new devices and generations of technology can be introduced into specific sub-systems without disturbing the architecture of the system as a whole.

This is already happening as a matter of course, and in the process confirming the soundness and evolutionary potential of the basic system design.

Other facets of the dynamic approach to the development include a standard equipment practice suited to automatic production of coherent documentation common to the Post Office and the firms involved, and extensive computer-aided design facilities. Collectively these will cut down design time and improve design efficiency; and a computerized data base will enable the vast quantity of design information now being generated to be exchanged between the various design teams and made available for planning, production and maintenance.

If the full impact of System X for the United

Kingdom telecommunications user is inescapably long term—because of the scale of investment and the problems of fitting System X into the great global machine that the world's telecommunications network now represents—the impact on United Kingdom exports can come much earlier.

The export opportunity in telecommunications products is massive. Global expenditure of £10,000m a year has been estimated for the mid-1980s. And, given that the dynamic approach adopted in the development can be carried through effectively into export marketing, sales and support services, there is no reason why the United Kingdom should not secure a substantial slice of the world trade. The technical capabilities to support such an endeavour are being created apace.

Mr Harris is technical director in the Post Office; and Mr Leakey, Mr Harris and Mr Peterson are technical directors in GEC Telecommunications, STC and Plessey Telecommunications respectively.

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First of all, we'd like to know your age (you should be under 26) and your qualifications. Address your letter to Major R.A. Couchman, Dept. D60, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

Army Officer

All of these matters point to the need for small businesses to ensure their interests are not overlooked. There is a danger that ITT and IBM and Exon may dominate the market without adequate regard for the adaptability of general business. Computerization within offices has not progressed smoothly, but it has been driven by highly subsidized research, selling of data handling products.

As the office functions of communicating and computing overlap more and more it would be a pity to grind the business user between the pricing mills of the Post Office on the one hand, and the selling commissions of the telephone companies on the other. Each individual business needs to study its telecommunications options with loving care and, collectively, they must return to protect their interests in the higher councils of the gargantuan service organizations which supply these products.

At this point, however, requires a fundamental shift in design back through the television set, back through the serial and transmission medium, back through the transmitter, and the camera, back almost to the studio—back almost to the television camera itself.

The change in design philosophy is required to produce equipment which does not handle the signals from the camera as electronic analogies of the scene, but converts the signals into streams of digital pulses. The difference is that between an undisciplined, barely controllable rabble, and an efficient, well-drilled unit.

In television operations, much of the electronic organization is taken up with trying to control the disturbance, and could be largely dispensed with under a digital regime. Receiving the signals, the receiver serially converts the signals into pulses and not bearing much resemblance to those that started out. They then have to be gently smoothed and filtered, the rest of your duty to the screen. Other signals, on the other hand, pass through strongly, unaffected by noise en route, and arrive at the screen as loud as when they set off.

These digital communications, however, mean that almost every single item of equipment between camera and viewer has to be redesigned. This may seem a rather drastic jump to get a flat screen that nobody seems all that keen on.

The benefits go beyond this. Apart from being able to reduce progressively the amount of broadcasting, digital systems do bring improved reception under diverse conditions and in large areas.

It also enables the broad-

designer back through the television set, back through the serial and transmission medium, back through the transmitter, and the chain of equipment in the studio, to the camera and the television camera itself.

The change in design philosophy is required to produce equipment which does not handle the signals from the camera as electrical analogues of the scene, but rather as a series of streams of digital pulses. The difference is that between an undisciplined, barely controllable rabble, and an efficient, well-drilled corps.

In television operations, much of the electronic organization is taken up with trying to control the rabble, and could be largely dispensed with under a digital regime. Rabble signals are the reason serials are worn out by the third running and not bearing much resemblance to those that started out. They then have to be gently scoured through the rest of the picture to recover the serial signals, on the other hand, unaffected by noise en route, and arrive at the screen as clear as when they set off.

Cooperation, however, means that almost every single item of equipment between camera and viewer has to be redesigned. This must seem a rather drastic just to get a flat clear picture, but nobody seems all that keen on this. The benefits go beyond to reduce progressively the costs of broadcasting, digital does not deteriorate, improved reception under adverse conditions and in fringe areas.

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Electronic technology, where development almost invariably reduces the costs in any area in which it is applied, including the cost of its continuing development.

An example of this was given by Dr Boris Townsend, the IBA's head of engineering information, in a recent seminar. He told us that, over the last year, the flickering, fading greenish television set cost about £70 and a hardly more reliable Austin 7 cost about £100. Despite almost equivalent improvements in reliability and performance, the new black and white television set still costs about £70 compared with the Mini's £2,000.

If Annan offers few clues to the future technology of broadcasting, where do we seek?

Clearly those who are responsible for filling the gaps in the night air might have had more than a passing thought about what they must be doing to make the fullest use of the great strides which the technology makes, to keep their costs within reason while improving the service they provide.

Both the BBC and the IBA have recognised this in the near future, the television screen in the average household will be about two metres wide and a metre high. And, adapting the display technology which has been successful in calcula-

processing much more easily, such as eliminating full scene scenery by superimposing actors on to scenery, models or pictures, and enabling transmissions to be seamlessly "swapped" between standards pertaining in different countries.

The most immediate beneficiaries of going digital, however, are in the receiver itself. There are many designs which will minimize the size of the prototype package as they appear at the receiver aerial. In time, the severely reduced organization necessary within the set must bring down the cost to the householder.

There is also the prospect of using the domestic television as a computer visual display unit—for the Ceefax and Oracle news data transmissions emanating from the broadcasters, as well as the Post Office's Viewdata service which goes into public use next year.

The home of the future is going to revolve around this computer centre—from mums to household accounts, shopping, doing without cash, recording programmes at scheduled times and then replaying at will. All of these are, of course, going to eat into the money saved by the reduced cost of the set. But it may be that the money being employed in a more useful manner.

Wavelength to the world

by Penny Taylor

On January 3, 1938, the BBC beamed its first foreign-language programme across Europe. It was a 25-minute programme in Arabic—conceived as a riposte against anti-British radio propaganda emanating from the Axis powers to the Arab world.

Those 25 minutes daily in Arabic grew into the extensive BBC External Services broadcasting organization which, on January 3 this year—the fortieth anniversary of the first Arabic programme—was broadcasting to the world in English and 38 other languages for more than a hundred hours a day.

The BBC External Services is a generic title which includes the BBC World Service, broadcast in English and 38 other languages in the vernacular.

It is worth listing them to realize the polyglot emphasis in the offices and corridors of Bush House, the External Services headquarters. Programme hours broadcast each week are given in brackets: English (227), Arabic (63), French (42), Russian (32), Latin-American Spanish (28), German (24), Polish (21), Hungarian (18), Portuguese for Brazil (15), Hindi (15), Czech (14), Romanian and Serbo-Croat (14), Bulgarian (12), Standard Chinese (10), Greek (10), Persian, Urdu, Indonesian, Vietnamese and Portuguese (8), Finnish (8), Bengali (8), Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Slovak, Hansa, Swahili, Burmese, Japanese and Thai (7), Somali and Cantonese (5), Slovene (2), Malay (2), Tamil (1), Nepali (1) and Maltese (1).

Programmes in all these languages are designed to give news, reports of world events and a broad picture of British life and thought.

The BBC jealously guards the editorial independence of its newsroom and, thanks to a reputation for objectivity painstakingly built up over the years, the External Services provide a global audience of 70 million regular listeners with a multi-lingual service of hard international news as seen from London.

Many regular listeners live in countries where the national news bulletins are controlled, censored or manipulated.

Sir Michael Swann, BBC chairman, says that critics

of the External Services accuse them of being a means of reinforcing diplomacy in the short term and of passing messages to the select few.

Such an aim is not part of the BBC's external broadcasting effort as we see it—though it could be made so, of course. Most of the countries which go in for external broadcasting do just this. I believe that the pursuit of short-term political ends is simply not compatible with being believed and trusted as a conveyor of truthful and unbiased news and information. We have always held this to be our foremost purpose.

Reports about Britain reflect British life "warts and all", Sir Michael says. "The reflection must be true—both the good and the bad. If not, it slides off into propaganda and ceases to be believable."

The BBC can quote some impressive examples to prove the chairman's point. Those working for the Arabic service during the Suez crisis told their listeners that the invasion of Suez did not have the support in Britain the Government would have liked to believe.

Government pressure insisted that the BBC should speak in what it considered was the national interest. The BBC persevered—despite saying baldly: "For a month or two, the past between Bush House and Whitehall was paved with the hottest bricks in the world."

The Arabic service kept its integrity with its listeners—only to run into trouble during the six-day Arab-Israeli war. Accurate reporting of Arab defeats left listeners with strong feelings of resentment but, after a short while, with the uncomfortable feeling that the BBC had been right, and that their own broadcasting stations had been wrong.

Now, in 1978, the Arabic Service broadcasts about 30,000 words daily to an audience stretching over four time zones. It is estimated that 22 per cent of the population of Kuwait, 40 per cent of Lebanon and 30 per cent of the adults in Damman and Jiddah in Saudi Arabia are regular listeners to the BBC.

The service receives about 40,000 letters annually from its listeners on a variety of subjects—from the serious to the perplexed. A listener in Tunisia wrote plaintively in 1977: "Is your signal

weak because so many people are listening to it that there is not enough to go around?"

How do these signals "go around" the globe? The technicalities are daunting, and international wavebands are full to overflowing. Britain broadcasts 708 hours a week in 39 languages and, on any day in the year, the External Services use 130 separate frequencies.

Other countries' external services are also using the international wavebands—Russia, China, West Germany and the United States each broadcasting between two and three times as much as Britain.

External Services programmes are beamed from Bush House with 70 high-power transmitters scattered over 10 major transmitting sites. Four transmitting stations in Britain and five large relay stations in Cyprus, Antigua, Ascension Island, Saudi Arabia and Singapore push the BBC signals to their worldwide audience.

Broadcasting by way of satellites is growing technically more feasible but political and financial constraints raise problems and rule out satellite transmissions for the time being.

Financial constraints and the forthcoming report on the controversial Central Policy Review Staff ("think tank") recommendations which, last year, suggested swinging cuts to the External Services output and organization, are worrying the BBC.

The External Services—including the monitoring service which reports on foreign radio broadcasts—are financed by annual parliamentary grants in aid. Substantial financial cut-backs in both operating and capital expenditure have already been put into effect.

Sir Michael Swann sums up the BBC's position: "If one does something conspicuously well—and vast audiences all over the world are in no doubt that we do—then we should concentrate on this, regardless of the difficulties."

Mr Gerard Mansell, the BBC's deputy director-general, commenting on the think tank's proposal to halve the time spent on the air by the Arabic service, said: "A cut like this would deny a demanding audience of a service it has come to expect, enjoy—and alternatives which it might seek elsewhere."

by Pearce Wright

One of the most fascinating technical facets of the communications industry has been a continuing competition for 50 years between radio systems and cables as a means of carrying messages across the world, and competition between the two methods seems set to continue for the next 50 years. This rivalry between two types of technology has erupted in a public squabble within the industry over plans for a new transatlantic telecommunications link.

Agreement looked certain, until last December, over proposals for a cable that would carry the equivalent of 5,500 telephone calls between America and Europe. Projects of this scale are agreed collectively between the telecommunications agencies in a number of countries because they all expect to benefit to some extent from a new international circuit.

The 21 main European telecommunications agencies with their five United States counterparts had accepted the idea to maintain the balance between the development of satellite communications services and those provided by cable across the Atlantic.

There are sound technical arguments for maintaining the expansion of the two forms of communication at about an equal pace. However, formal proposals to install a circuit to be called TAT-7 were rejected by the American Federal Communications Commission in preference to the use of satellite links.

The politics of communications has been fraught with this sort of confrontation since Marconi invented the "wireless" method of sending messages. The satellite is merely the latest manifestation of transmitting signals by radio waves. Competition between the radio and cable technologies has been responsible for holding the costs of international telex and telephone calls to a level that no other industry can claim to have done for its goods or services. The price of £1 a minute for a transatlantic telephone call is the same as it was in 1938.

More than half of all international telephone calls between Britain and rest of the world go by undersea

communications circuits. Not surprisingly the North Atlantic carries the heaviest load, hence the interest in the outcome of the argument about TAT-7, which would be the ninth submarine telephone link from Europe across that ocean. It would also have a much greater capacity than any predecessor.

Because it lacks the glamour of the satellite business, the manufacture of cables has become regarded as a fairly simple and old-fashioned practice. In fact the design, development and production of modern underwater cables is probably a more exacting technology than any other branch of the communications industry.

The technical and economic choice between cable and satellite systems usually involves some sophisticated arguments between the supporters of both technologies. Both have a disadvantage—they are difficult to reach for repair and maintenance.

Recovery of lengths of cable is at least possible. Changes to a satellite have to be made through slight readjustments of its position in orbit, by small motors so that it can be "seen" more clearly from earth stations, and by using control signals to make changes in the electronic system to restore fading circuits.

A revolution in the ease of handling communications satellites will come when the American-managed shuttle programme starts in the 1980s, enabling spacecraft to be repaired in orbit or brought back to earth. No industrial concern could contemplate financing such an enterprise—and so, as with the introduction of the first generation of rockets—built for reasons of strategy and prestige—the satellite of the future will be carried into a new era without much effort on the part of those commercially interested.

The response of the cables faction to the reusable satellite will probably come with an equally notable leap—into fibre optic circuits, allowing telephone, television, computer data and other signals to be carried at a high speed. The thickness of a single existing cable ship could lay a girdle of fibre optic cable round the world, capable of carrying all existing traffic.

The advance in communications afforded by the

shuttle will almost certainly be the stimulus for fibre optic cables over the next decade. As the technology of cable design and production has advanced to give higher capacity circuits the size of the industry has contracted to four suppliers. The United Kingdom has about 50 per cent of the world submarine cable business.

Like the other foreign manufacturers, the company also has an interest in the development of the radio systems aspect of some types of space satellites.

Cables seemed to be on the decline after radio systems became more reliable in the 1930s. But a resurgence in the underwater links occurred in the 1950s when the radio spectrum became increasingly crowded. Several technical strides were necessary, however, for the cable to compete with the radio circuits in a business where the main objective is to keep the cost of making a telephone call down. For the cable this meant squeezing more messages along the line.

The solution to this need came with advances in the device called a repeater which is spliced into a cable every few miles. The most recent cable laid between Europe and America has 693 repeaters made by STC. These units, which look like small torpedoes, contain electronic amplifiers to maintain a voice message or any other signal at the correct level. The invention of the transistor allowed these amplifiers to be made smaller, reliably and with a great saving in the speed of laying a cable.

However, the cable carries both a telephone call and a very high voltage to drive the signal across the Atlantic. Both the voice and the power signals go down the same line. Since the transistor amplifiers would be damaged by a high voltage, each repeater contains complicated electronic filter to separate the voice and the power signals at each stage of processing across the Atlantic.

The basic specification for a cable circuit includes a minimum life of 25 years. Thus the overriding consideration is one of reliability. Therefore the design of key items such as repeaters are backed by an intensive research programme.



In front of one of the giant aerials at the Post Office earth station at Goonhilly in Cornwall, Mr George Banner, station manager, holds a scale model of one of the orbiting satellites which can handle up to 6,000 telephone calls.

Fighting fires with Figaro

A unique communications system has been ordered by the Home Office for the fire services. The equipment has been tested for three years in a number of large buildings and installations—including a nuclear power station, a missile frigate in harbour, an underground railway system, and tower block buildings—in which rescue men could be in great danger without efficient communications apparatus.

Indeed, the idea for the Figaro system was prompted by incidents in which firemen's lives were put at great risk in conditions in which existing communications equipment was inadequate. The new design has potential applications for other emergency services, but it could also open new uses for special short-range communications networks built on this novel method of transmitting signals. For the Figaro scheme allows transmission in conditions in which more conventional radio signals fail to penetrate rock, water, soil or metal barriers standing between a member of an emergency rescue or fighting crew and the control centre.

The specification for the new radio system was produced by the directorate of telecommunications at the Home Office in conjunction with a joint research committee representing fire brigades. Among other characteristics the apparatus has to withstand rough handling, heat, noise, and to be small enough for use with breathing apparatus and free from interference.

The main difficulty was finding a suitable frequency for this type of work that would meet the requirements and also clear of the existing crowded channels on which mobile and two-way personal radio operate. The answer came from the Plessey company which had done investigations showing a suitable "window" through these barriers for frequencies between 10 MHz (megahertz) and 100 MHz, with which short range links could be established.

The most suitable frequency for Figaro, chosen from that work, was for a unit to operate at 3 MHz. In tests the fire service and rescue teams had throat microphones and single earpieces in order to make a compact portable device

which could be incorporated with the breathing equipment needed by rescue services in the worst conditions. A demonstration of Figaro will be among the new developments to be presented by Home Office communications groups at the Communications '78 exhibition.

For the most stringent tests, a number of large fire brigades proposed installations that might form a high potential risk. For instance, in the Avon area a trial was made with the Central Electricity Generating Board of tackling a blaze at a nuclear power station. By its very nature, a power station has large amounts of electricity, bulky and radiation structures and deep basements. All of these objects present difficulties by forming a screen against more conventional two-way radio communications links.

In that exacting communication channels were established to the most inaccessible places, to which contact could not be made by using existing uhf (ultra high frequency) and vhf (very high frequency) personal radio sets. The technical trick with Figaro is the choice of a radio signal which can be induced to travel along the sort of large water pipes, cable ducts and walls that would normally present a barrier to radio transmission. This type of barrier is perhaps more commonly encountered in new large buildings built on steel girder frames.

Efficiency of communication between the base station and fireman depends in some circumstances on how the aerial of the transmitter is placed on the fire ground though the aerial is as easy to erect as a tripod for a camera. In the best conditions from the standpoint of radio transmission, distances of more than a mile can be covered adequately with Figaro. But at some times the working distance for effective communication is in the range of 500 to 600 yd. On the other hand, other types of personal radio communication ceased to operate after distances of 40 yd to 150 yd.

One of the most tiresome problems in the design of the equipment was not connected directly to the transmission and reception of radio signals; it was the development of a headset to switch on and off without a fireman using his hands. This was the subject of a separate project.

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World Bank Americans criticize US policies

From Frank Vogl
Washington, April 3

In an unprecedented move, American employees at the World Bank have written directly to President Carter complaining of United States government policies that threaten economic and international cooperation and seriously weaken the bank.

The views of the staff appear mostly to be shared by the Mr. Robert McNamara, the Bank's president.

The staff suggested in their letter that the United States was striving to force the bank to ignore policies based on domestic political considerations alone, in total violation of the principles outlined at American government insistence in the Bretton Woods agreements that established the bank over 30 years ago.

They claimed that these policies were leading other governments to resort to national, unilateral approaches on bank policy issues of prime importance.

Lord Croomham (above), who as Sir Douglas Allen was head of the Home Civil Service and Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department from 1974 until he retired at the end of last year, is to become an industrial adviser to the Bank of England. He takes up the appointment next Monday, and will complement the activities of Sir Henry Benson, who has been industrial adviser at the Bank since 1975.

Settlement by German metal union

From Paul Norman

As an agreement between the IG Metall-trade union and the employers was finally reached in the early hours of this morning, it should put an end to the economic disaster which has crippled the metal processing industry in south-west Germany for the last two and a half weeks.

At the end of an all night negotiating session, Herr Franz Stankhüller, the local union leader, and Herr Heinz Dürr, the chairman of the Baden Württemberg employers federation announced that they had agreed on a 5 per cent wage increase for the 560,000 metal workers in the area, and safeguards "will prevent workers losing income as a result of jobs being downgraded or being in the production of new technologies."

The agreement, which is bound to set a precedent for the metal industry in other parts of Germany, has resulted in a total of 250 hours of negotiations between the two men and their advisers.

He added that the United States was alone in adopting such policies.

The Treasury has indicated that it intends to cut the gross salaries of American bank employees by 20 per cent, and the gross salaries of non-American bank employees by 5 to 10 per cent.

Mr McNamara stated that most employees were recruited from the private sector, and that the salary scales were based on pay scales in private enterprise and *not on levels* that might exist in the civil service.

American employees at the bank say in their letter to Mr Friedman, "heretofore petition our Government to continue sending messages and emissaries to the capitals of scores of members of the bank to try to convince or reassure them into following the United States line."

"Above all, we urge the United States Administration to resist the constant nagging of the World Bank and to resist by certain members of Congress and its committees."

Charinco
(Charities Narcotics Ringer Common Investment Fund)
**An important investment
for charity trustees**

EEC-China trade pact

Brussels, April 3.—China and the European Economic Community today signed a five-year trade agreement.

Mr K. B. Andersen, the Danish Foreign Minister and President of the EEC's Council of Ministers, said it would be the task of the EEC-China Joint Committee, set up under the agreement, to open up trade possibilities as yet unexploited.

The non-preferential framework agreement commits China to give "favourable consideration" to EEC exports, according to political sources.

It also requires both sides to do what they can keep their trade reasonably balanced.

David Bonavia writes from Hongkong: China's signing of a trade agreement with the EEC will provide no immediate relief from the long term may divert more Chinese business to Europe from Japan and continue to freeze the United States out of the China market.

The Times index : 196.97 — 1.40

Rises				THE POUND	
Castlediffrid	9p to 191p	Metals Explorer	2p to 14p	Bank bull	Bank sell
Dixon D.	3p to 69p	Security Serv	6p to 98p	Austria S	1.69 1.63
Fremans	10p to 282p	UC Invest	4p to 230p	Austria Sch	28.25 27.25
Groceries	41p to 104p	W'invest	4p to 104p	Belgium Fr	66.75 66.25
Hanersley	8p to 173p	U'shaft Dist	6p to 160p	Canada S	10.68 10.18
Letraser	3p to 125p	Yarrow	5p to 270p	Denmark Kr	10.68 10.18
McNeill Grp	3p to 36p	Zambia Copper	5p to 111p	Finland Mkk	8.83 7.68
				France Fc	8.75 8.35
				Germany Dm	3.90 3.68
				Greece Dr	68.25 64.25
				Hongkong \$	8.95 8.95
				Italy L	1645.00 1560.00
Falls				Japan Yn	430.00 405.00
Blacken Mines	12p to 74p	Kinross	23p to 344p	Netherlands Gld	4.12 3.54
Shrens Eoz	1p to 32p	Pitard Grp	6p to 59p	Norway Kr	10.15 9.75
De Beers	10p to 214p	Sailor Motors	51p to 791p	Portugal Esc	78.25 73.25
De Beers Div	26p to 328p	Ricanman W.	7p to 100p	S Africa Rd	8.83 8.74
Durban Road	26p to 214p	Scots T A *	8p to 61p	Spain Ps	154.00 147.00
El Portland	12p to 73p	Wital H	30p to 195p	Switzerland Kr	1.67 1.63
Harmony	15p to 252p	Winkelsack	34p to 695p		

Switzerland Fr	3.58	3.36
US \$	1.92	1.86
Switzerland Dm	36.75	34.75

Dollar premium 100.0 per cent			
Annual rate 42.4			
sterling gained half-a-cent to			
11.9850			
The effective exchange			
rate index was at 61.8			
while SDR-5 was 0.654037.			
Commodities: Reuters's index			
at 1,433.4 (previous 1,434.6).			
Stamps and other foreign currency			
Reports. pages. 20 and 22			

On other pages			
Business appointments	20	Banque Nationale de Paris	17
Appointee rate 42.4	24, 26	Charinco	18
Bank Base Rates Table	22	Equity & Law	20
		Freemans	20
Annual statements:		Interstate Companies	20
		Lucas Industries	18
		Midland Bank	21
		Ranscoque Sims & Jefferies	20
		Preliminary announcements:	
		Prudential Assurance	20
		Interim statements:	
		Prospectus:	

Charinco is a common investment fund supervised by an independent body of Trustees. It has been created under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners specifically to help charity trustees look after their fixed interest investments with the maximum efficiency and the minimum worry.

The Record

Charinco completed its second year on 30th November 1977. The price of the income shares has risen from 100.00p to 122.51p and of the accumulation shares to 147.17p. Dividends per share were 15p in the first year and 12.6p in the second year. There were 936 subscribing charities and the total value of the fund was £9,870,110.

The Advantages

- * Funds will benefit from day-to-day supervision by an experienced City management team.
- * Trustees can either subscribe cash, or transfer suitable existing securities into Charinco.
- * A greater diversification of investments can be achieved while administration costs can be lowered.
- * The Fund managers will aim gradually to increase capital and income over the years.
- * Dividends will be paid gross, quarterly, ensuring a regular flow of income.

For further information please write to The Fund Managers appointed by the Trustees:

Mullens & Co., Members of The Stock Exchange,
15 Moorgate London, EC2A 4AN

Discontent likely over salary for BNOC post

By Roger Viorrey
Energy Correspondent

The Department of Energy's advertising campaign aimed at finding a new deputy chairman for the British National Oil Corporation looks like stirring more discontent among other nationalized industry board members.

Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, is prepared to pay between £24,000 and £30,000 to find a deputy for Lord Kearton—more than many of the other state chairmen are earning, and certainly more than any other deputy chairman.

Mr Dennis Dodds, the former Chairman of the Merseyside and North West Electricity Board and now chairman of the Association of State Industry Boards, said the Government was not confined in fixing salaries for new nationalized industry posts. Only salaries for existing posts were pegged. He did not think the BNOC salary was too high, but it would create another anomaly. Even when state chairmen and board members got the 5 per cent rise mentioned by Mr Callaghan before Christmas, they would still be below the salary offered for the BNOC post.

Nationalized industry board members have received only nominal increases since the Government failed to act on the Top Salaries Review Board recommendations of 1974. Mr Dodds said he expected to receive a report from the review board towards the end of this month.

The post of deputy chairman at BNOC has been vacant since the retirement of Lord Balogh in January.

The department is hoping to land a senior oil expert for the job, although oil circles say the salary may be too low to attract an executive from one of the multinationals. However, candidates from oil-related industries will also be considered.

Lucas says cost of US tenders is factor in need to close plants

By Cliff Webb

Lucas Aerospace has warned the Government and union leaders that the cost of tendering for contracts to supply components to the American aircraft industry is becoming prohibitive. It recently spent £250,000 in an abortive attempt to win work on the F18 Northrop light-weight fighter plane.

And with future growth in aircraft manufacturing almost certainly centred on North America, Lucas has emphasized that if it is to remain in business as Europe's largest aircraft component manufacturer it has no alternative but to continue spending large sums to attract American orders.

Despite this, Lucas insists that it has not asked for government financial assistance and has no intention of doing so. But it is demanding a sympathetic ear from ministers to its present factory closure proposals.

There is growing realization

within Lucas as a whole that losses now being sustained by its aerospace division are a heavy price to pay for giving way to government pressure in the late 1960s. With a £3m loan from the Industrial Reorganization Corporation it was persuaded to spend more than £20m to acquire competitors and form a single United Kingdom source for aircraft fuel systems, control units, engine starters, and many other electrical, mechanical, hydraulic and pneumatic components.

But the resentment now being expressed in private conveniently forgets that in its eagerness to diversify away from its traditional motor industry base, Lucas was a more than willing partner.

It is the proliferation of products—the most comprehensive in the entire aircraft industry—and the large number of factories acquired which Mr James Blyth, the head of Lucas Aero-

space, is attempting to rationalize by closing five factories, the biggest on hard-hit Merseyside.

Victor Works, Liverpool, was built to meet the huge increase in orders following the outbreak of the Korean war. Unfortunately for Lucas, Victor makes mechanical fuel systems, and these are now being replaced by more advanced electronic units.

Mr Blyth insists that the present outback will reduce the aerospace labour force of 11,300 by only 1,400 and all those displaced will be offered jobs elsewhere in the group.

Lucas Aerospace Combined Shop Stewards Committee has said its members will prevent any movement between plants of men and machinery. They do not accept that only 1,400 jobs will go, and are once again advancing the merits of their own much publicized "Corporate Plan" to replace military equipment with other products.

Nube call for productivity pay rises of at least 4pc

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

English clearing bank staff are seeking at least 4 per cent productivity payments in addition to consolidation of phases one and two and a 10 per cent across the board settlement.

The target has emerged after the Scottish clearing banks approved a deal along those lines for 24,000 staff, giving between 9 and 12 per cent from April 1 and productivity payments backdated to August 1 last year, believed to be worth about 4 per cent.

The annual conference of the National Union of Bank Employees in Sheffield yesterday, a sight of the new national executive to take into account improved productivity since August 1975, in pursuing the next settlement, due for 200,000 staff in July.

Mr Anthony Maughan said in his presidential address: "We have cooperated in the extension of banking into fields once unthought of, and in the tremendous rise in the volume of traditional banking. This has qualified us for substantial productivity payments."

Mr Cliff Mills, Nube general secretary, said the number of bank staff on supplementary benefit was a disgrace. The English clearers could afford at least what the Scottish banks had given.

Savings machinery in the English clearers has now collapsed, and Mr Mills told delegates that there were "no circumstances under which we can go back to joint negotiations with the staff associations either domestically or annually."

The Guardian Royal Exchange Staff Union, which has 5,800 members, will ballot next month on whether to join Nube. If the merger happens, the indications are that Nube will create a separate section for insurance members.

Discordant notes, page 19

Boilermakers vote for Swan Hunter pay pact

More than 2,000 boilermakers yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of a pay agreement aimed at securing industrial peace in the five Tyneside shipyards of Swan Hunter.

Only 295 men voted against the common wages agreement, which had already been accepted by 5,000 other tradesmen in the Tyne yards.

The agreement, which is likely to come into force before the end of the month, will effectively end inter-union pay rows which have plagued the yards for more than 10 years and which recently lost Swan Hunter a £57m order from Poland.

The agreement, which will give all craftsmen £83 a week and ancillary workers £72 a week, also allows for more flexibility among trades.

DCL launching brand to replace Johnnie Walker

By Patricia Tisdall

A new whisky to replace the Johnnie Walker brand which the Distillers Company withdrew from the British market last month, has been launched.

The brand, called John Bar, but retaining the familiar square bottle of its predecessor, is produced by George Cowie & Son, a subsidiary of John Walker & Sons and a member of the DCL group.

It is expected to appear in the shops in May at a similar price to Haig, White Horse and other standard DCL brands.

Meanwhile, other smaller distillers are scrambling to mop up the sales gap left by the departure of Johnnie Walker and the sharp increase in the price of five other brands which resulted from DCL's reaction to the EEC ruling in December on competition policy.

Whyte and Mackay Distillers,

part of Scottish and Universal Investment Trust, announced marketing plans yesterday which it hopes will double its share of British whisky sales during the next year.

The company plans to spend £500,000 on advertising to increase sales in England. Mr John Ligertwood, Whyte and Mackay's home sales director, said yesterday that the company's "Special Scotch" whisky was the third best selling brand in Scotland. In United Kingdom terms its share of the market is approaching 4 per cent, but in Scotland it is nearer 10 per cent.

Company sales amounted to more than £20m in 1977 and profits to over £1.6m. Whyte and Mackay controls three Highland malt distilleries with a combined output of more than three million proof gallons annually.

Zip company finds snags in shift to Britain

Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, was busy yesterday urging the captains of Japanese industry to boost their investments in major export markets like Europe. On a week-long visit as part of an effort to attract more Japanese companies to Britain, the minister told the Keidanren (Japan's CBI) that investment in lucrative overseas markets would be one means of reducing the country's trade surplus.

But back in Britain, one of the Japanese companies which has taken the plunge—YKK

Fasteners—is not a little hurt by the way in which Mr Williams and the Department of Industry have treated its efforts to establish itself in the United Kingdom market.

Shortly before leaving for Tokyo, Mr Williams expressed his concern to ensure that the level of slide fasteners from Japan, being imported by YKK, which has a factory at Runcorn, Cheshire, was cut back.

But YKK, in a letter to Mr Williams has claimed that its reputation had been put at risk. The company told him there

had never been an undertaking given to the Government on the level of imports which would be brought in from Japan, or the level of exports that would be made.

Mr S. Takahashi, its chairman, said that what the company had submitted was a plan "which was merely an estimate and not in any way a duty to be carried out to the letter".

The company maintained that the plan is still going ahead. It explained that the main reasons why the value of its imports from Japan increased

last year was that there was less than anticipated production from its new components factory.

This was due to be completed a year ago, but was delayed because of construction problems.

The department said last night: "We shall be watching the level of fastener imports from Japan very closely. The company have told us that they intend to reduce the import level."

Peter Hill

More delay for Argyll oil output

New problems have hit the Hamilton Brothers' Argyll oil field in the North Sea. Production, which stopped at the beginning of February, was not likely to resume until the middle of next month, the company said yesterday.

A mechanical failure has been discovered in the single buoy mooring system for loading oil directly into tankers.

11 more blackout agreements listed

A further 11 unlawful agreements in the blackout (road surfacing materials) supply industry were placed on the register of restrictive practices by the Office of Fair Trading yesterday.

Ten relate to agreements by which parties decided who should submit a favoured tender and were terminated on the letting of the contract. The other, relating to the supply of hot rolled asphalt, involved the charging of an agreed price. So far 99 agreements in the blackout sector have been placed on the register.

SE Council confirms options commission

On the eve of the opening of the rival European Options Exchange in Amsterdam, the commission rate structure for dealing in the London options market, due to start later this month, was confirmed.

The Stock Exchange Council has decided on a single scale of commission amounting to £2.75 per option contract (usually covering 1,000 shares) plus 2.5 per cent of the first £5,000 of option money. The rate will taper to 1.5 per cent on the next £5,000 and 1 per cent on the excess.

Asbestos substitute developed in UK

Civil engineers at the University of Surrey have developed what they say is a safe, strong and potentially economic substitute for asbestos cement.

Patent applications for the new material, which comprises a cement matrix reinforced by layers of stretched polypropylene film, have been filed in 20 countries.

Hepworth offer for Johnson-Richards

Three weeks after Hepworth Ceramic first announced its takeover intentions, the Sheffield-based clayware group has unveiled a cash and paper offer for H. & R. Johnson-Richards share. Hepworth dropped its strategy to 79p so that the shares in its intended acquisition, up 2p to 118p, stand at the effective bid price.

Cadbury raises loan to buy US group

Cadbury Schweppes has raised a loan of \$90m (about £48m) from a syndicate of 14 banks partly to finance the purchase of Peter Paul, an American confectionery company.

An agreement to purchase of Peter Paul was reached in February, at a price of \$58.6m.

L&G pensions offshoot in £17m lease deal

In a transaction worth £17m Legal and General Assurance (Pensions Management) has become head leaseholder of the Golden Square shopping centre in Warrington. It was announced yesterday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Edwardes plan to MPs?

From Mr Michael Grylls, MP
Sir, At his press conference on March 20, Mr Michael Edwardes, chairman of British Leyland, said that the new strategy plan now being considered by the Government was a major switch of investment from the loss-making cars to the profitable truck and bus and special products divisions.

That is good news, and other Conservative MPs, advocated such a switch two years ago. Blind determination to continue pouring taxpayers' money into loss-making parts of British Leyland was a major weakness of the now defunct Ryder Plan.

I do, however, have a criticism of the Government's submissiveness in refusing Parliament a sight of the new Edwardes Business Plan 1978. Ministers received it three weeks ago.

Why should MPs, as guardians of the taxpayers' funds, have to learn of such a change in investment policy through the media? If Leyland had been a private sector company looking for large-scale finance from an institution, the board would certainly have ensured that the institu-

tion was informed, even consulted, about major changes in investment policy.

I do not, though, blame Mr Edwardes. He has to contend with the NEB (acting as a "post-box" between British Leyland and the Minister), the Minister himself and the Finance Committee, and the Finance Committee which has to approve the finance: a daunting number of layers of responsibility.

The Government should place the Edwardes Plan in the House of Commons Library for MPs to study. Any parts that were genuinely commercially confidential could have been expurgated. To be fair to the Government, they did publish the Ryder Report (Cmd 3421).

If Ryder, why not Edwardes? As I said in an article in *The Times* on Leyland (March 18): "I believe, too, that Parliament should set a timetable for a return to genuine profitability."

Until that is achieved, and while Leyland is being propped up by the taxpayer, MPs must be consulted as well as just informed.

MICHAEL GRYLLS, Vice-Chairman, Conservative Industry Committee, House of Commons, London, SW1.

Tragedy of British Steel

From Mr Anthony Cockerill
Sir, The White Paper *British Steel Corporation: The Road to Viability* (Cmd 7149), published today, comes just five years after the announcement of the Ten-Year Development Strategy, and marks its virtual extinction.

It has become fashionable to regard the development programme as seriously deficient, because of its over-estimate of the capacity required and its under-estimate of the cost. In fact, this view is misguided for at least the following reasons:

(a) The "excess capacity" argument is largely a red herring. Much of the proposed investment was for the replacement of outdated plant, which was (and is) urgently required. The balancing of longer-term capacity and demand should be achieved by paring net additions to capacity and adjusting that contained in high-cost plants at the margin of obsolescence, and not by delaying necessary replacement investment. The Select Committee on Nationalized Industries (on which I served as an adviser) was quite clear on this point (*Second Report*, paras 29 and 30).

(b) The argument also overlooks the incremental cost of new capacity both for replacement and expansion. By "debt-borne" the potential output of the Appleby-Frodingham works at Scunthorpe and Port Talbot could be raised at relatively modest expense, even at today's prices.

The Redcar mill is another case: because of the pervasiveness of economies of scale, the capital cost per tonne of one million tonnes produced in a mill of two

million tonnes annual capacity (BSC's original proposal) would be £100,000 per tonne. The output produced in a mill of half that capacity. A substantial proportion of new capacity is thus available virtually free.

(c) Interventions by successive Administrations, in particular the John Smeaton Group of 1971-72 and the Beswick Review of 1974-75, caused severe slippage during a period in which capital costs were rising much faster than steel prices.

(d) The BSC has had to cut back its fixed capital expenditures in order to support the deficits on its revenue account, in large part because of pressures to maintain employment and of increases in interest charges due to delays in the investment programme. In the current year, for example, of borrowings of about £950m, only about £550m (58 per cent) will be expenditure on fixed assets.

Political considerations apart, the fact that the BSC in 1957 offered many the hope of an integrated, modern, and efficient steel industry. The United Kingdom has considerable resources for steel-making: a skilled and experienced workforce, low relative hourly employment costs, a number of coastal sites, and a good record of technical achievements—in continuous casting and special steel making, for example. Yet these advantages have been persistently and progressively frittered away. That is the real tragedy of British Steel.

ANTHONY COCKERILL, Senior Lecturer in Economics, University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT.

Government should buy strategic metals now

From Mr Nicholas J. Peto
Sir, I cannot understand the British Government not buy strategic metal times when they have vast funds, particularly from its bonuses as North Sea oil. In opinion they should exit the strategic metal prices, then buy sensible quantities those which are historically very cheap.

At this point in time, for example, copper would be a wise metal to buy. With a high of £14.50 in 1974, the present price of £6.50 would seem a bargain. Japan is buying the U.S. States looks likely to buy copper. Our Government consider this strategy, particularly when the average price of a producing ton over £750 per ton?

Further, I fail to see the various international which continuously some Third World countries not purchase the commodities produced by those countries which always have value at least, rather than the paper they can accept, which is worthless. Zambia has been granted a \$300m loan to help finance her inter-her outstanding loans. don't the banks take equivalent tonnage of iron?

Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS PETO, 10, St James's Street, London SW1A 1EF.

Beautiful car

From Mr William Horner
Sir, In *Freight Report* (23) David Robinson refers to "small VLCC".

I thought that VLCC for "very large crude oil" Small very large is beautiful. FALLAM HORNER, Higher Woolcotts Farm, Brompton Regis, Dorset TA22 9NX.

Timber production and salvage

From Mr R. N. Lines
Sir, Why are so many countries' being imported countries outside the EU so cheaply, that they can sell products made in mills from nearly-free materials? Our mills have been able to buy salvage for many months now, is not even worth the short haul transport.

R. N. LINES, 21A Cheneys Avenue, Little Chalfont, Bucks, Buckinghamshire.

Another year of expansion

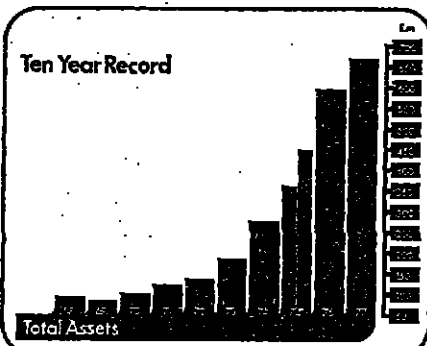
Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Sir Patrick Reilly, G.C.M.G., D.S.E.

For the Banque Nationale de Paris Limited 1977 was another year of expansion. Total assets again increased from £597,247,000 to £671,251,000 and shareholders' funds from £24,293,000 to £31,443,000. For the first time since 1970, however, pre-tax profits suffered a relatively small decline from £4,182,000 to £3,917,000 which was the unavoidable result of the severe drop in interest rates over the year but profits after tax showed an increase in 1976.

Our strength in London is our basic commercial banking business and with the diverse activities and worldwide connections which we have we are able to overcome to some extent fluctuations in particular sectors.

Thus the effect of declining interest rates has been counteracted by our activities on the Euro-currency markets. We maintain our position as a leading foreign exchange trader in French francs and in other major currencies. We look forward in 1978 to developing our leasing services to our clients and also to involvement in export finance.

During the year the Bank added to its Representative Offices in Leeds and Edinburgh a new



Representative Office in Birmingham. These make a very useful contribution to the growth of the Bank's business and our Knightsbridge branch, specialising in personal banking, continues to make very satisfactory progress.

Our associated bank in Nigeria, the United Bank for Africa Ltd., has had another very good year, the dividend increasing from £266,000 to £420,000.

The Bank's new building on our old site was completed on schedule and we returned to King William Street at the end of February. The construction of a fine building in the heart of the City is proof, if any were needed, of confidence in London's future as a leading financial centre. Its completion will enable our Bank to strengthen still further its contribution to the expansion of the international BNP Banking Group to which we belong.

Banque Nationale de Paris Limited

Head Office: 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3JF. Tel: (01) 686 5678.
Knightsbridge Branch: 60, Knightsbridge, London SW7 2LW. Tel: (01) 589 4491.
Representative Offices: 21, Melville Street, 11, 12 Park Row, Edinburgh EH3 7PE. Leeds LS1 5HD. Tel: (053) 226 3388. Tel: (0532) 443633.
Wellesley House, Waterloo Court, 37 Waterloo Street, Birmingham B2 5TL. Tel: (021) 236 9755.

BNP Group Head Office: Banque Nationale de Paris, 16 Boulevard des Capucines, Paris 75009.

Lucas ~ interim results

The Group's unaudited results for the half year to 31 January 1978 are:

	Half-year to 31.1.78 £million	Half-year to 31.1.77 £million	Year to 31.7.77 £million
Sales to outside customers	462.39	418.23	886.07
Surplus on Trading	30.34	35.90	78.22
Share of profits less losses of associated companies	1.09	1.57	3.32
Interest payable less received	31.43	37.47	81.61
Profit before Taxation	3.82	2.80	4.32
Taxation	27.61	34.67	77.22
Profit after taxation	14.38	18.01	39.62
Minority interests	13.23	16.66	37.66
Profit attributable to Shareholders	30	57	94
Earnings per Ordinary Share	12.93	16.09	36.72
Depreciation charged in arriving at the surplus on trading	13.78p	17.14p	39.14p
	11.38	8.37	18.82

Notes:
1 All research and development expenditure incurred during the period has been charged to arriving at the above profits.
2 UK Corporation tax has been charged at 52% in both years.
3 The cost of the interim dividend will be £2.19 million (last year £1.99 million).

Results
Turnover for the six months was £462m—an increase of £44m. The Lucas share of associated companies' turnover was a further £45m. Profits before tax were £27.6m, being affected by the very damaging toolroom strike which, as already reported, cost £11m. Worldwide demand for our products has remained strong and turnover would have been higher but for the restriction on supplies from the UK factories; despite this factor and some areas of market weakness, good progress has been made by our companies, both at home and overseas. Our vehicle equipment businesses have obtained significant new contracts to supply European vehicle and engine makers and our industrial equipment business continued its advance. Our plans to increase substantially our share of the important USA market are making good progress.

In my annual review last year I indicated the need to restructure our aircraft equipment business to bring the facilities into line with the present lower demand and the intensely competitive situation. Proposals to this end, including the redeployment of people, have been announced.

Dividends
The Interim Dividend for the year ending 31 July 1978 will be paid on 15 May 1978 at the rate of 2.334p per Ordinary share. This compares with an Interim Dividend of 2.122p per Ordinary share paid last year and represents an increase of 10%. The Interim Dividend on the Redeemable Preference shares will be 3.501p per share (last year 3.183p).

Prospects
We expect the present firm demand for our products to be sustained and no effort will be spared to recover further the ground lost in the first half of the year.

BERNARD SCOTT
Chairman

Lucas Industries

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

An unsettled path to the Budget

Up to the Budget is proving a puzzle for financial markets. One believes that the fall in sterling and the pound's performance on the exchange markets has proved unsettling in domestic markets. It is to be seen if the authorities' more intervention in support of sterling today can exercise a calming influence.

will bring the March reserve and the banking system's eligible figures for the month to mid-March, which will be fed into predictions on the money supply is rising. While it is not clear what the Chancellor will say next week on the next set of targets, the present trend in supply has not ceased to be of concern. If the March money supply is disappointing, the authorities are able to postpone a curricular very much longer.

while, with the sterling Eurobond getting its second drubbing in just two weeks, there are doubts about whether there will be a significant borrowing. The market began with a bang last week but was held in its tracks by a rise in minimum lending rate. As a result, the market for Treasury bills had to offer much more than yields than earlier conceded to the United Kingdom.

last week's shakeout in secondary issues, the lid of the coffin has been pushed further with the two to three per cent rise in the Treasury bill rate. The market is now more savage than in the past. The Treasury bill rate is now at 10 1/2 per cent. The Treasury bill rate is now at 10 1/2 per cent. The Treasury bill rate is now at 10 1/2 per cent.

the poor performance of sterling has been blamed for the sharp drop in the market as fears of overnight currency outflows outweighed any interest rate rise.

structure of the market continues to be unsettled. Last week the Treasury bill rate was at least in part to blame for the market's decline. The Treasury bill rate is now at 10 1/2 per cent. The Treasury bill rate is now at 10 1/2 per cent. The Treasury bill rate is now at 10 1/2 per cent.

Freemans' sales increase of 18.4 per cent to £166.5m last year was just below the mail order industry average. But with margins continuing to improve in the second half and interest rates falling profits turned out some £300,000 above most market estimates, gaining 26 per cent to just over £13m.

These results, achieved without any real benefit from the pre-Christmas spending spree (mail order trade traditionally peaks in November), caused a 10p jump in the share price to 282p yesterday.

However, the shares, like those in the stores sector, are really looking to the current year. Freemans admits that this has not yet lived up to expectations mainly as a result of delays in settlements of Phase 3 wage payments. Assuming this to be the cause and that there are some Budget concessions one can make out a case for expecting a strong increase in retail spending. The question though is whether the mail order houses will be able to gain the same proportionate share as their High Street rivals.

At present, while accepting that major benefits are more likely to go to the consumer durable retailers, mail order groups like Freemans, however, are not more than a temporary slowdown in the momentum which has enabled them to corner around 81 per cent of non-food sales, mainly at the expense of department stores in recent years.

Given only a cautious estimate of a £17m profit for this year, which would reduce the p/e ratio from just over 10 to under 8, the shares could still offer further scope for improvement.

The harsh effects of the levy on those television companies who have little in the way of earnings outside their television contracting activities are well demonstrated by Scottish Television. With profits before the levy and taxation up by a half at £4,07m, a ten per cent rise in the effect of the levy left pre-tax profits just 24 per cent ahead at £1,74m.

STV, whose chairman is Sir J. Campbell Fraser (above), not only has few interests outside television, but sees little benefit from overseas sales, which, if the IBA does not change the formula, are exempt from the levy. However, this year it has already had the Prime of Miss Jean Brodie on national network, and has several more in the pipeline for national distribution which should improve the chances of overseas sales.

Advertising revenue for the full year rose 30 per cent to £15.1m, showing a fall off by a couple of points in the second half. Rates were increased by 20 per cent from the end of February, but with already very high utilization—a daily average of 97 to 98 per cent with 99 per cent at peak times—further growth in advertising revenue is limited.

STV shares fell 8p to 61p yesterday to yield 5.9 per cent and sell at 4.4 times earnings. With companies like Trident, yielding a full two points more and earning a far higher non-levy income, there are other more attractive propositions in the sector.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 4 1978

Christopher Thomas

Selfish

Discordant notes in the banking halls

Acute inter-union rivalry in banking and insurance, on Sunday prompted Mr. Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, to urge the two unions involved to stop stomping over each other's traditional recruiting ground.

It was a cry in the wilderness. Already the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) has made a takeover offer to the staff associations of Lloyds, National Westminster and Barclays—territory properly regarded as that of the National Union of Bank Employees. And 5,800 members of the Guardian Royal Exchange Staff Union will vote next month on whether to join Nube—and that is territory that ASTMS regards as its own.

Mr. Murray's idea is simple. Nube should stick to banking and leave insurance to ASTMS. And ASTMS should stop its recruitment effort in banking.

Mr. Clive Jenkins, general secretary of ASTMS, grabbed his chance, as always, and moved into the Midland Bank by taking over the staff association.

When Nube rejoined the TUC, after more than two years outside, it had to pay £34,000 in back affiliation fees. However, the TUC's anti-poaching protection was not made retrospective and ASTMS kept its Midland members.

dependent on a ballot. National Westminster has told Mr. Jenkins that with an independent inquiry getting under way into staff representation in the English clearing banks the time is not ripe to consider his offer. And Barclays, in particular, has shown no inclination to join a TUC affiliated union.

Mr. Murray told 350 delegates at Nube's annual conference at Sheffield University: "I am bound to say there are areas in which it would clearly not be helpful for Nube to become organizationally involved."

Interpreted that means: "If you go into the insurance industry there will be an appalling punchup with ASTMS."

He said: "We want to help unions develop spheres of influence agreements between themselves so they can deploy their scarce resources in areas and in ways which are mutually advantageous."

Looking for harmony and productivity at British Leyland

Yesterday's report from the National Enterprise Board on the corporate plan to 1981 for British Leyland, prepared by Mr. Michael Edwards, chairman, Sir Leslie Murphy, sounds more optimistic than its predecessor. It provides a return of 10 per cent on capital employed in 1981 (with an upward revision for later years depending on actual performance).

Can Leyland succeed with this second chance and the taxpayer's backing? It has to be remembered that Leyland still earns a trading profit and this year revenues, should exceed £3,000m, nearly a half coming from overseas. A 10 per cent return in three years time looks a hard task, but it can be done if management and the workforce accept just what a task it will be.

The closure of the Spoke number two plant is a dose of realism and the review of overseas operations is necessary. They are immediate tasks of the prospects, for the acceptance of hard decisions. The trade unions have to accept the unpleasant loss of another 10,000 jobs this year, on top of the factory closure at Spoke.

Leyland exists to make and sell cars. The record since publication of the corporate plan, and ownership has been appalling, and needs to be considered when examining Mr. Edwards' stated objectives.

Performance last year was bad on almost every major count. The old board's plans were based on a 32 per cent share of the important United Kingdom market for cars in 1977. The actual result was 24 per cent.

Average output per man in car manufacturing in 1977 was 5.40 units, a drop on the previous year. The company lost 12,000 or so vehicles through disputes, and consequential problems were encountered by suppliers.

What Mr. Edwards proposes now is a crash programme for 1978 to 1979 to give British Leyland a new lease of life. The volume of cars and trucks they need if their outlets are to be retained and winning customer interest revived. This strategy of getting the home market right recognizes that the scope for raising overseas sales at this particular time is limited, given Leyland's relatively low level of competitiveness in terms of United Kingdom manufacturing costs.

Securing an appropriate home market share, depends on achieving higher productivity.

Mr. Edwards is asking the unions for a commitment to raise efficiency in terms of output per man-year by 13.5 per cent from 5.40 cars in 1977, to 6.40 in 1978, and in later years to over eight.

Given uninterrupted production, Leyland could easily achieve 6.40 cars per man this year. It is not an unattainable target on paper, though whether the unions can maintain the necessary level of workforce discipline is a critical question. Immediate action is required to provide a short-term bridging loan of £27.5m pending the extraordinary general meeting now required to reorganize the share capital.

This is before an incentive scheme for raising productivity, now under negotiation, has been concluded. Whether it is wise to provide funds before a productivity deal has been settled depends on your point of view about Leyland's workforce and its unproven capacity for peaceful relations.

Nonetheless, much progress has been made in common pay bargaining and other reforms of industrial relations, which are now inherited by Mr. Edwards and his new management teams. It is the product and manufacturing plan for Leyland Cars which has caused the greatest headaches for a management task force which wants to get more output from the engineering resources presently available.

What emerged yesterday was a general decision to cover the main sectors of the car market, but there are changes to the model plans implicit in the Ryder programme. Mr. Edwards is proposing a "remodelling and redirection" of the costly model which was to replace the Mini. At the same time, a determined bid is promised to provide a rapid improvement to existing models in the medium car range (including better quality com-



Mr. Michael Edwards, Leyland chairman: ambitious projections governed by a realistic time-scale.

actually spent on capital projects in 1978.

Mr. Edwards' £2,000m design for Leyland up to 1981 on the basis of a fifty-fifty funding is not, however, without a vital safeguard. By the end of this year, the NEB will expect a revised corporate plan, with a budget for 1979. This enables the NEB to assess the workforce's reaction during this difficult year, with its unpleasant dismissals and much whip-cracking along assembly lines.

He has set out a three-year programme when time is not on his side. The odds against regaining the lost market share in 1978 in the midst of reorganization and management changes look impossible.

As always, just one serious labour dispute in the car-making subsidiary will indicate whether the trade unions understand that the corporate plan as published yesterday and the NEB's support for it is the company's last chance. The Government are clearly going to agree a second staggering sum of risk capital, but taxpayers will not stand for a third rescue.

Business Diary: Lord and master • In pursuit of art

England is adding to its industrial base, thus stepping up its economic growth. The closer relationship between industry and sources of finance is a key factor in this growth.

Guido Brunner, the West German art collector, has turned from his preoccupation with energy and scientific research to give British art dealers and fine art auctioneers a jolt.

One proposal which Dr. Brunner and the commission are keen to pursue is the universal application of a system for supplementing artists' incomes which the continental call "right of pursuit".



"Bearing in mind the risks of our nuclear programme, I think Mrs. Thatcher is right to say that North Sea revenues should be spent immediately by the people in tax cuts."

the daughter of the Belgian sculptor Georges Minne, whose fountains decorate the centres of Ghent and Brussels, recently revealed that the system had named his estate only £10 a year since its inception.

Godfrey Pilkington, who has represented the London Society of Art Dealers in international discussions on the system, echoes the opposition of French dealers to the scheme.

For the benefit perhaps of those who are not so sensitive to the aesthetic value of money, the Bank is reminding banks and post offices of the rules for replacing mutilated cash.

The only change is that the requirement that the serial number must remain on what is left of the note now only applies to £5 notes and higher.

Really chewed-up notes have to be sent to the Bank's office in Newcastle upon Tyne for a decision.

Two Midlands-based building societies, the Wolverhampton and Merca and the Midlands, are to stock sterling American Express travellers cheques for their members.

Some people who have noticed that the serial number appears only in the bottom right-hand corner, are already hoarding them in the hope that if withdrawn they will have a scarcity value.

freemans

Mail Order

Preliminary results for the 52 weeks ended 28 January 1978

Turnover including VAT £000's	£166,474	Profit before Tax £000's	£13,060
£137,139	£140,611		
£105,283	£10,345		
	£8,192		
	£7,039		

1974 75 1975 76 1976 77 1977 78 1974 75 1975 76 1976 77 1977 78

*REAL PROGRESS
Turnover up 18.4% to £166,474,000
Profit before tax up 26.2% to £13,060,000

*Proposed dividend increased by maximum permitted

*Active agents at record 437,000

*Good volume growth expected in 1978

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts, when published, will be available from the Company Secretary (01-735 7644)

Freemans (London SW9) Ltd. 133 Clapham Road London SW9 0HR

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It is not an invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any securities of Gadek (Malaysia) Berhad.

GADEK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD

Share Capital		
Authorised	Issued and fully paid	
MS3,500,000	In Shares of MS1 each	MS2,868,529
Loan Capital		
10 per cent. First Mortgage		
Debtenture Stock 1983/88		MS2,910,929

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted all the above 2,868,529 issued Shares of MS1 each and all the above Debtenture Stock of Gadek (Malaysia) Berhad to the Official List. Particulars relating to Gadek (Malaysia) Berhad are available in the statistical service of Exel Statistical Services Limited and copies of such particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 14th April, 1978, from:—

de Zoete & Bevan,
25 Finsbury Circus,
London, EC2M 7EE.
and at The Stock Exchange.

The Prudential Assurance Company Limited

The unaudited results for the Prudential Group of Companies for 1977 are set out below with comparative figures for earlier years.

The Directors have declared a final dividend of 4.198p per share payable on 25 May next. This, together with the interim dividend of 2.450p per share declared in September last, amounts to 6.648p. Adding an imputed tax credit at the rate of 34/66ths, the equivalent gross amount is 10.073p per share, and compares with 9.158p per share for 1976.

	1977	1976	1975	1974
Life				
Surplus	236.4	210.0	186.8	135.8
Policyholders' bonus	220.5	186.4	174.8	127.8
To Profit and Loss Account	15.9	13.6	12.0	8.0
Non-life				
Premium Income	358.4	321.9	233.9	190.8
Underwriting loss	(9.5)	(10.2)	(8.3)	(4.7)
Investment income	23.4	21.5	15.7	11.5
	13.9	11.3	7.4	6.8
Taxation	3.6	5.0	4.1	1.8
To Profit and Loss Account	10.3	6.3	3.3	5.2
Profit and Loss				
Life	15.9	13.6	12.0	8.0
Non-life	10.3	6.3	3.3	5.2
Account: Other net income	5.7	4.5	2.7	2.9
Profit for the year	31.9	24.4	18.0	16.1
Retained profits	12.1	8.0	3.2	4.6
Dividend cost	19.8	16.4	14.8	11.5
Equivalent gross dividend per share	10.073p	9.158p	8.326p	7.711p

(Earnings per share are not appropriate for life assurance business and have not therefore been given.)

The growth of income and profits in 1977 has been reduced by the improvement in the sterling exchange rate. There was a continued improvement in the surplus from life business which enabled policyholders' bonuses to be increased and a larger transfer to Profit and Loss Account to be made. The non-life underwriting loss showed a small reduction in total after providing for a refund of some £3.3m to policyholders in Canada in accordance with the requirements of the Anti-Inflation Board. Some worsening occurred in the Company's underwriting results in the United Kingdom. There was continuing adverse experience in the domestic property account and a small loss on the motor account. Commercial property and pecuniary loss accounts and long term general business continued profitable. Overall the results showed little change. Overseas the Company's results in Canada remained good. Australia continued to show improved profitability and L'Escaut produced better results. Underwriting experience in New Zealand and Holland and in our South African subsidiary was disappointing. Although the underwriting results of The Mercantile and General were similar to last year the transfer to Profit and Loss Account showed a significant improvement. The Shareholders' Funds of the Group were increased by some £30m during 1977 by the acquisition of the shares of The Standard Trust Limited. The Group solvency margin at 31 December 1977 was 53%.

Bonuses on the Company's participating life and annuity business have been declared as follows:—

Ordinary Branch Assurances (United Kingdom)

(a) Reversionary bonus: £4.40% (£4.20%)

(b) Terminal bonus for policies issued in 1976 (1975) or earlier, payable on claims by death or maturity in the twelve months commencing 1 April 1978. (Examples shown below.)

Year of issue	%	£
1968	15.30	(£12.40)
1963	21.00	(£27.80)
1958	27.00	(£43.80)
1948	33.00	(£72.70)
1938	41.00	(£96.10)
1928	51.00	(£117.40)

Industrial Branch Assurances

(a) Reversionary bonus: £2.80% (£2.60%)

(b) Terminal bonus for policies issued in 1976 (1975) or earlier payable on claims by death or maturity in the twelve months commencing 1 April 1978. (Examples shown below.)

Year of issue	%	£
1968	14.10	(£9.20)
1963	22.40	(£23.70)
1958	33.00	(£38.70)
1948	43.00	(£66.20)
1938	53.00	(£87.50)
1928	63.00	(£106.60)

Group Pensions Business (United Kingdom)

The rate of annual bonus under deferred annuity contracts has been increased to 7.00% compound (£6.50%) and under cash accumulation contracts to 4.90% compound (£4.40%).

Other Business

The rates of bonus on United Kingdom personal retirement annuity plans have been increased and increases have been made in some bonus rates for overseas business.

Prudential

The Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd. 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.



Inveresk Group

Year to 31st December	1977	1976
External Sales — U.K.	£'000 67,053	£'000 49,328
— Export	3,762	2,383
	70,815	51,711
Profit before tax	2,159	1,557
Profit after tax	1,626	1,167
Ordinary Dividends	930	618
Net assets at year end	21,867	18,097
Year to 31st December	1977	1976
Earnings per Ord. Stock Unit	p. 8.2	p. 8.2
Net basis	10.8	10.8
Fully diluted basis	7.8	7.8
Dividend per Ord. Stock Unit	4.8642	4.8642
Net assets per Ord. Stock Unit	90.3	90.3

Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1977 may be obtained from the Secretary, Inveresk Group Limited, Clan House, 19 Tudor Street, London EC4A 0BA.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Late bargain-hunters save the day

Equities made a nervous start to the Budget account but bargain-hunters late in the day enabled most prices to finish well above the worst.

In the industrial sections most interest centred on a number of speculative stocks, some of which registered spectacular movements, but the mainstream of business was subdued by the prospect of the Chancellor's package of cuts in public expenditure and the possibility of a bank lending figures will not augur well for containment of money supply growth.

The money supply also proved a major point of concern in the fixed-interest market where there was also talk of higher interest rates and the re-imposition of the bank "cor-

set". To judge from last night's mood the bank figures will have to be considerably better than the generally accepted estimates to allay the market fears.

In light trading short dates lost around a quarter of a point while the longer brethren finished the day up to three-eighths off.

Back in equities the mood was not helped by a bearish circular from Phillips & Drew predicting a slow-down in industrial investment this year and also a fall in the rate of economic growth over the second six months.

The FT Index, 3.4 off at its lowest at 2 pm, closed just 1.3 down at 462.5 after the late demand.

With the stores sector moving into its results season combined English slipped a penny to 77p in spite of figures deemed to be satisfactory. But there was a much brighter response from mail order group Freemans which jumped

Wigfall slumped 30p to 195p after its board took obvious steps to block bidder Comet, and our warnings against Wigfall as a short term gamble proved right. Meanwhile Comet is free from tax acquisition but may not have enhanced its standing, and its own profits are probably rising from £3.9m to around £5m this year to August. The year after that they should be at least £7m better than that, or so some say.

10p to 282p after figures and lifted Grattan, also due to report soon, 3p to 128p. For the latter the market range of estimates stretches from £12m to £13.5m, against £11.6m, for the full year.

British Home Stores, down 3p

to 147p, came under some pressure but another reporting this week, Austin Reed, held steady at 76p in its 'A' shares. Dealers are looking for a modest rise in profit from £2.2m to £2.65m. Though above the worst Henry Wigfall slumped 30p to 195p after the lapsing of the Comet Radio offer. Wheatstheat, where the talk is of a bid for around 200p, rose 6p to 160p on speculative interest but with dealers feeling any terms would be likely to be pitched much lower than £2.

Recent takeover favourite Mills & Allen slumped 15p to 160p as the speculators unloaded their shares but Robertson Foods went the other way jumping 12p to 148p on chatter that Rowntree Macintosh might make a move. This did little for the latter's shares which dipped 8p to 382p.

In spite of the denial of an approach to Letaset continued to move ahead, by 5p to 135p. There are two schools of thought here. One is that an American group is building up a stake and the second is that Reddie & Coleman might find the group complementary to its Winsor & Newton and Reeves companies.

Renewed talk of an Anglo-French rail link lifted Channel tunnel 19p to 60p while London & Liverpool Trust had its listing restored and went to 22p pending an offer. Word that Spillers bakery division could be up for sale had the shares a shade firmer at 30p. McNeill Group jumped 5p to 56p on reports of Irish interest and London Sumatra dipped 16p to 120p after the better terms were rejected.

In the electrical sector Recal rose 2p to 212p after news of a planned £5m plus acquisition

in the United States which many feel could transform the company's interests there.

In engineers GKN were unmoved at 275p by the prospect of today's results but both Yarrow, up 7p to 272p and Spirax-Sarco better by 3p to 270p, responded the fogues, the last named also helped by a scrip issue. Foremost among the "blue chips" was Unilever which defied the general trend to close with a gain of 6p to 504p. Most of the leaders ended at their overnight levels.

With talk of a bid for Status Discount now out of the way tomorrow's figures from W. H. Smith at 159p are the focus of attention. The market range of estimates is from £19m to £21m, compared with £15.5m, with a margin favouring the lower figure. Earlier in the year the jubilee provided a boost, and the other major factor, Christmas trading, looks to have been satisfactory, if not spectacular. The group is mainly concerned with newspaper distribution in the provinces and as such is not expected to suffer greatly from the recent strike in London.

Figures from Ocean Transport were no worse than feared and the shares eased 3p to 121p. But British & Commonwealth lost 5p to 268p in sympathy and Furness came under pressure dipping 9p to 230p.

Disappointment at figures upset Scottish TV to the tune of 8p to 61p. Equity turnover on March 31 was £74.54m (18,313 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BP, GEC, ICI, Shell, British Leyland, Burmah Oil, BAT Ind, and DfD, Courtaulds, EMI and Spillers.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Admans (F)	3.23(2.62)	0.24(0.24)	20.1(27.5)	—	23/5	6.6(5.9)
Ash & Lacy (F)	24.6(23.9)	1.40(1.78)	15.9(21.4)	3.63(3.0)	—	—
Authority (F)	1.11(1.22)	0.11(0.11)	1.11(1.22)	—	—	—
Cambridge (F)	55.90(54.47)	4.34(4.61)	12.40(15.64)	1.70(1.32)	—	3.24(2.9)
James Dickie (F)	3.45(2.79)	0.39(0.40)	14.54(11.15)	2.18(1.9)	—	4.4(3.8)
Firms (SW9) (F)	166.47(140.61)	13.06(10.34)	27.3(21.2)	3.5(3.1)	—	5.9(5.3)
Highland Dist (F)	21.01(13.75)	1.71(1.44)	1.71(1.44)	—	7/6	—
Charles Hurst (F)	45.3(36.0)	0.96(0.69)	16.57(13.27)	3.3(2.7)	—	5.9(5.3)
Magnolia Grp (F)	4.64(3.64)	0.60(0.45)	16.58(12.37)	1.87(1.67)	—	2.6(2.4)
Mersey Docks (F)	—	4.10(4.38)	20.5(21.88)	—	—	—
Ocean Transport (F)	39.08(32.7)	3.08(2.20)	23.67(23.85)	4.13(3.8)	1/6	8.24(7.3)
Sci Television (F)	15.47(12.04)	2.31(1.40)	1.27(1.13)	—	—	2.3(2.1)
Spirax-Sarco (F)	29.27(25.79)	5.09(4.23)	26.3(23.5)	5.19(3.6)	—	8.94(6.19)
Tiphaire Jute (F)	22.78(22.83)	2.06(0.574)	142.36(42.1a)	Nil(Nil)	—	Nil(Nil)
Town Centre (F)	—	0.35(0.35)	—	—	—	—
Yarrow (I)	3.56(3.12)	0.76(0.94)	—	1.7(1.5)	—	—(3.6)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Loss.

Combined English makes up most of leeway

By Ray Maughan

A strong second half revival helped Combined English Stores to recoup most of the midway drop and finish just 6 per cent short of the previous record.

Some 76 per cent down at the interim stage, pre-tax profits for the year to January 28 last amounted to £4.34m. The credit on the sale of retail shop properties was boosted by £100,000 to £708,000 but CES has also taken the £436,000 deficit on the Belgian ladies' fashion accessories subsidiary, Lindor, above the line. If these extraordinary items are stripped out, pre-tax profits grew by £65,000.

Lindor has been reorganized and the board, headed by Mr Murray Gordon, states that the

second half recovery in all the mainstream activities has been maintained. CES is confident that trading conditions will continue to improve and profits will grow accordingly.

In a strong financial position, the group has sufficient cash resources to pursue expansion plans.

A final dividend of 1.7066p lifts the total to a maximum 3.2423p per share. Stated earnings fell from 15.64p to 12.4p per share but the shares, down 1p at 77p yesterday, appear to have absorbed the shock of the first profits hiccup since 1970.

Shareholders include N V Brabant which, after the purchase of Lombro's stake last September, has a 9 per cent holding.

Morgan Grenfell first with £2m credit for Egypt

Morgan Grenfell has completed the first buyer credit guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department under the new fixed rate sterling refinancing scheme. Morgan is providing a £2m credit line to the Bank of Alexandria of Egypt to finance purchases of British goods. Repayments will have to be within five years, and Morgan will provide all the funds itself with no element of refinancing.

Equity & Law's new contracts stop downtrend

By Our Financial Staff

Equity & Law Life Assurance Society is confident that the downward trend in net new sums assured—£778m last year against £892m—will be reversed. The fall stems from the change in commission terms which has dissuaded brokers from selling low premium, individual ordinary business.

But the introduction of new contracts, such as guaranteed income and growth bonds, is now bearing fruit.

The 1977 accounts show a net £8.5m disinvestment in property. This now accounts for 21 per cent against 25 per cent of the Society's total invested assets. Total net assets grew by £133m to more than £650m last year to reflect the rise in equity and fixed interest prices as well as the upturn in property values.

The rate of reversionary bonus on United Kingdom ordinary individual life policies has gone up by 0.25 per cent to 4 per cent while the bonus rate on personal retirement policies has risen by 0.15 per cent to 3.65 per cent.

RECKITT & COLMAN

Our apologies to Reckitt & Colman; the chairman is, of course, Mr James Clemenson, not Mr A. M. Mason as we unfortunately said yesterday. Mr Clemenson was and is chief executive, and he succeeded Mr Mason in the chair in May last year.

CIBA-GEIGY

Schweizerische Fernent, a subsidiary of Novo Industri, Copenhagen, has agreed to buy Dr. E. Schubert, Dringen, which is an offshoot of Ciba-Geigy, Basle. The purchase consideration is expected to be about 12.5-15m Swiss francs (£3.9m-£4.3m).

Business appointments

House of Fraser promotion

Mr A. P. Humphries has become executive joint deputy chairman of House of Fraser.

Mr D. A. Pinn, managing director, has been elected deputy chairman of Alcan Aluminium (UK). Mr D. M. Culver and Mr P. J. J. Rich have resigned, following their recent appointments in the Alcan Group (Mr Culver as president of Alcan Aluminium of Montreal and Mr Rich as executive vice-president of Alcan Aluminium with responsibility for North and South America), and Mr Eric F. West has been elected a director of the company. Mr West is Alcan Aluminium executive vice-president with responsibility for Europe and Africa.

Following the reorganization of the Glaxo Group's UK ethical pharmaceuticals business, Mr J. C. N. Drevitt will be chairman of a new subsidiary with operational responsibility for the United Kingdom manufacture of ethical pharmaceuticals and their sales in the United Kingdom market. Mr

R. C. Farmer will be managing director. Mr Drevitt will also become chairman of a new bulk sales company and Mr P. Scruton will be its managing director.

Mr Grahame W. Wise has been made managing director of Edgar Allen, Balfour after Mr S. Armstrong relinquished his position of managing director and retired as a director.

Mr J. J. Sanderson Smith has become a director of Colmore Investments and Mr J. P. Garvey has resigned.

Mr J. Rowley has joined the board of Hestair.

Mr J. M. Whittington has submitted his resignation to the board of Cambrian and General Securities.

Messrs W. R. Lawrie and D. E. Maciver have gone on to the board of East Driefontein Gold Mining and Messrs D. E. Moffie and G. Langton have resigned.

Mr Frank Watts has joined Fiske & Co as a partner.

RANSOMES

Mr. Geoffrey Bone, Chairman, reports a satisfactory year in which:

Profits increased 12% to £2,253,000

Sales increased 23% to £31,046,000

Maximum permitted increase in ordinary dividend recommended

Sales of Grass Machinery, Harvesting Machinery and Electric Truck Divisions were well up but Tillage Equipment Division showed no real growth in difficult trading conditions

Turning to the current year he says:

"Our ability to maintain profit margin remains uncertain whilst UK inflation continues at a higher rate than that being experienced by the countries where our chief competitors are based. Nevertheless, we shall be disappointed if the results for the current year do not show a further improvement."

RANSOMES SIMS & JEFFERIES LIMITED

Electric Trucks • Farm Machinery • Grass Machinery

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from the Secretary, Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Ipswich, IP3 9QG

SCOTTISH AMICABLE

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the One Hundred and Fifty-second Annual General Meeting of the Members will be held in 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5NQ, on Wednesday, 12th April 1978 at 3.00 p.m.

By Order of the Directors:
W. PROUDFOOT
General Manager and Actuary
150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5NQ.
10th March, 1978.

Equity & Law

Life Assurance Society Limited

Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Mr P D J H Cox, circulated with the Report and Accounts for 1977:

- * In view of the small increase in new business in 1977 in the United Kingdom market as a whole, and having regard to the effect of the changed commission terms in the United Kingdom, I regard the Society's new business results for 1977 as satisfactory.
- * With substantial rises in Stock Exchange prices of both fixed interest and equities and a rise in the latter part of the year in property values, the Society's investments appreciated in the year by £133m.
- * In the United Kingdom, £541m was invested in fixed interest, £5m in equities and there was net disinvestment of £83m in property—sales of £141m and purchases of £6m.
- * The investment reserve now stands at £75m (£40m at the end of 1976).
- * The rate of reversionary bonus on ordinary individual life policies in the United Kingdom has been increased by 0.25% to 4.00% and upwards. The bonus rate on personal retirement and similar policies has been increased by 0.15% to 3.65%; this follows an increase of 0.25% a year ago. The terminal bonus on United Kingdom policies was increased from 10% to 15% in July 1977.
- * The dividend recommended is 6.6867p per share, the maximum permitted.
- * In the United Kingdom we will continue our policy of seeking a broader spread of individual business. Over the last two years, we have introduced a number of new types of contract. This policy has met with a substantial measure of success already and I believe that it will bear more fruit this year.
- * In the group market new business prospects seem better than for the past few years. Premiums under new schemes already secured to commence in 1978 are larger than the total under such business written last year.

	1977	1976
£ million	£ million	£ million
New sums assured	778	892
Sums assured in force	4,103	3,728
New annual premiums	14.4	14.6
Total premium income	90.9	78.9
Payments to policyholders	40.9	33.3
Group net assets (market value basis)	709	496
Investment reserves	75	40
Dividend—cost	1.34	1.22
per share	6.6867p	6.0789p

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3ES.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Highland Dist to increase price of Famous Grouse blend

The interim results from Highland Distilleries, the Scotch whisky group renowned for "Famous Grouse", show an increase of 18 per cent in pre-tax profits to £1.7m for the six months to February 28.

Sales rose by 35 per cent from the first half of last year, thanks mainly to the continuing progress of the Famous Grouse. However, in view of increased costs, it is intended to raise the price of this blend soon.

In the home trade sales in the calendar year 1977 showed a good increase despite a declining market. In the first three months of 1978 there has been heavy forward buying ahead of expected industry price increases. Orders for new fillings in the current calendar year are just ahead of last year, while actual sales of new and mature whisky are the same.

Time of transition for Yarrow

Up went the turnover of Yarrow from £3.21m to £3.56m in the half-year to December 31. But down went pre-tax profits from £94,000 to £76,000. These figures do not include profits earned by Yarrow (Shipbuilders), since that company and Yarrow (Training) were nationalised on July 1, 1977. So they were not part of the Yarrow group in the latest half-year.

Trading profits and investment income in the second half are expected to be maintained and may even increase. But profit on sales of investments will not be significant. The interim dividend, gross, rises from 2.27p to 2.57p. Last December, Yarrow bought 75

per cent of Ritchie Taylor Engineering (Glasgow) for £360,000. Yarrow is pursuing "several other opportunities" for investment.

BSR waits for upturn in world economy

Any growth this year at BSR will only occur if the major industrial economies act quickly to increase demand, says Mr John Ferguson, chairman, in his annual report. Sales for the sound reproduction division are running slightly behind the comparable period last year, while those in the consumer product division are on an even keel.

Tebbutt deal brings in Mr Knight

For an initial share payment of £150,000 followed by about £100,000 depending upon profits, Tebbitt Group, the Rowe Ruid vehicle, is buying Tape Projects and Self-Seal Tape from Tiger Securities. The deal is for shares which will give Tiger 15 per cent of Tebbitt's equity, so Mr Robert Knight, Tiger's chairman, will join the Tebbitt board. Mr Knight, incidentally, became head of the George Surla group in November.

Record half seen at Metatrax

With an extremely strong order book, Metatrax (Holdings) is looking for substantial further progress this year. Mr John Ward, chairman of this Birmingham-based engineering group, says that in the absence of catastrophe, the results for the first six months of the

current year should be another record.

He views the year as a whole with confidence, although it would be unrealistic to expect the results for the full year to show a dramatic rise like last year's.

Scrip issue as Spirax passes £5m pre-tax

Record results as promised come from Spirax-Sarco Engineering along with the forecast bigger dividend, and a scrip issue for good measure. On turnover 13.5 per cent ahead at £29.26m, pre-tax profits rose by 20.5 per cent to £5.09m last year, the first time £5m has been passed. As predicted, the final payment rises from 5.54p to 7.86p, lifting the total gross dividend from 9.52p to 13.54p. A one-for-one scrip issue is also proposed.

London Sumatra not interested in 150p

London Sumatra Plantations and its financial adviser Robert Fleming yesterday rejected the revised 150p a share takeover offer from McLeod-Sipef. McLeod-Sipef has said that the offer, increased from 110p a share, is the final one. It will not be increased. Yesterday the shares fell 3p to 130p. London Sumatra has put the net asset value of its shares at 270p.

Racal pays £5.35m for second US purchase

By Michael Press

Racal Electronics is to pay £5.35m for Vadic Corporation, a private manufacturer of data communications equipment based in California. The acquisition is being financed by a dollar loan from Barclays Bank International and is intended by Racal to improve the range and marketing of its products.

Vadic specializes in low-speed modems (modulators-demodulators), of which it is the biggest private manufacturer in the United States.

Modems are devices which enable digital data to be sent over ordinary telephone lines, and Racal is itself a leading maker of high-speed modems.

Over the past five years Vadic, formed in 1965, has trebled sales to £4.6m in the fiscal year that ended in April, 1977. Pre-tax profits for the same year were £744,000 on assets of £2,443,000. In the first nine months of Vadic's current financial year sales were £4.5m.

In May last year Racal paid £37m for another United States company, Milgo Electronic, now renamed Racal-Milgo.

Racal is planning to bid for more turnkey contracts, particularly in the security market. Since the purchase of Vadic could considerably strengthen Racal's earnings from next year, the market put the shares up 2p to 212p.

All these securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

FFI

Finance for Industry Limited
(Incorporated in England under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1967)

£12,000,000

10 per cent. Sterling/U.S. dollar payable Bonds 1989

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas

Deutsche Bank
Aktiengesellschaft

Kreditbank S.A. Luxembourgeoise

Salomon Brothers International
LimitedSwiss Bank Corporation (Overseas)
Limited

Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale

Barclays Bank International
LimitedLloyds Bank International
Limited

Midland Bank Group

National Westminster Bank Group

The Royal Bank of Scotland
Limited

South African mines exploration goes on

By Desmond Quigley

Problems posed by continuing high levels of inflation affecting South African mines, and the escalating costs of exploration and development, have been highlighted in several recent annual reports from mining companies in South Africa and elsewhere.

Nevertheless, on the exploration side there are encouraging signs. Union Corporation has all but categorically stated that it has a new uranium-cum-gold mine in the Orange Free State.

In his annual statement, Mr E. Pavitt, chairman of Union

Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of Anglo American Gold, notes that the results of Anglo's exploration in the Eridani-Dankward area are being reviewed. The zone is non-committal, but on the other hand not as pessimistic as when reviewing exploration elsewhere in the Orange Free State.

Meanwhile Anglo is raising R25m and Anglo R40m through the placement of 10p per cent redeemable preference shares either to reduce short-term borrowings and to finance new investment commitments or to finance "ongoing commitments".

At Randfontein Estates the chairman, Mr Bernard Smith, comments that consideration is being given to a further expansion of underground operations through the opening up of the Cooke Number Three area. At Stilfontein the cost of the plant for the treatment of the dumps is put at R50m.

Falabores lost 6,600 tons of copper last year because of problems with the two new autogenous mills, but Mr G. A. Macmillan, chairman, is unable to say how much will be lost this year.

But he warns shareholders in his annual statement that between 5,000 to 6,000 tons will be lost during the last two months of this year and early next year when large-scale renovation work takes place.

Mr Macmillan adds: "I cannot foresee any prospect of a meaningful improvement in the company's financial results for 1978."

A Curtiss-Wright proxy statement for its campaign to oust Kennecott's board at the annual meeting is not yet clear for announcing under Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules.

In SEC records related to it, \$77m (about £40.5m) investment in Kennecott, Curtiss-Wright contended that Kennecott should not have bought Carbonyl Company late last year.

It has indicated an incoming board would sell off the big abrasives and ceramics-making subsidiaries for use by Kennecott paid \$567m, and then distribute the proceeds to Kennecott holders.

Mining

Corporation, comments that the group is in the last stages of evaluating a potential uranium/gold mine south of the St Helena mine. The implication is clearly that it is the uranium which will make the prospect viable.

But he warns shareholders that if the project goes to production "a very substantial cash investment will be required". Elsewhere there are further references to increasing cash requirements and that the greater part of last year's R14.5m retained earnings have been absorbed by the industrial subsidiaries.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, the directors are seeking to raise the borrowing limits from R240m to R347m.

Kennecott worries

The Kennecott Copper Corporation of America has questioned the Curtiss-Wright Corporation's motives for acquiring recently 9.9 per cent of Kennecott's stock as well as the New York State and the nuclear equipment concern's intentions. It says it wants its promised proxy fight for control of Kennecott.

Kennecott's questions were seen by observers as indicating Kennecott's concern over the coming challenge from Curtiss-Wright. They also betray an anxiousness by Kennecott to get the battle under way.

Wall Street

New York, April 3.—The New York stock market fell sharply today in reaction to the threat of possible credit tightening by the Federal Reserve.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 6.22 points to 131.04. Some 1,079 issues declined with about 200 rising. Volume included 20,220,000 shares, up from 20,120,000 shares on Friday.

Speculation spread in Wall Street that the Fed would soon tighten money policy in its drive against inflation and also to support the dollar.

The Fed could raise its discount rate or push higher the target rate on four Federal funds, and some analysts said both moves were probable in the near term. However, today the Fed indicated its target rate on funds remained the same at short-term interest rates declined.

Yesterday's Wall Street and Canadian closing prices will appear tomorrow. Later publication is caused by the change to British Summer Time. This will continue until Eastern Daylight Time begins in the United States.

Silver futures collapse

New York, April 3.—SILVER FUTURES COLLAPSED TODAY, falling from a high of \$10.10 to a low of \$9.80. The price of silver futures fell sharply today in reaction to the threat of possible credit tightening by the Federal Reserve.

Midland Bank-Report 1977:



"Our performance in 1977 reflects the advantages we are gaining from being a Group which provides a wide range of financial services in an increasing number of world markets."

The Rt. Hon. Lord Armstrong of Sanderstead,
Chairman, Midland Bank Limited.

Pre-tax profit up from £166.4m to £192.8m

After providing for taxation, minority interests and extraordinary items, the net profit attributable to shareholders was £82.5m, as against £71.7m. The improvement in pre-tax profits was achieved in a year of falling interest rates and in a generally depressed economy with only a modest demand for borrowing in the U.K.

Treasury consent to 15% dividend increase

Total dividends for 1977 will amount to 14.75p per share (against 12.62p in 1976) equivalent, with the associated tax credits, to 22.35p per share compared with 19.42p per share for 1976.

Rights issue raises £96.4 million

Continued expansion of the Midland Bank and its subsidiaries creates the need for a further strengthening of the Bank's capital base. The recent £96.4 million rights issue comes after some US \$300 million has been raised in the last two and a half years in the eurocurrency market.

Total advances increase

1977 saw the Midland increase its share of the banking sector's sterling advances, with manufacturing industry, the traditional base of the Bank's business, showing the greatest gain. Industry, however, remained reluctant in 1977 to take up total agreed facilities. The Bank's willingness to provide funds, even at the finest rates, is of little avail without a strong underlying demand in the economy and stable conditions so that customers have the confidence to commit themselves to expansion programmes.

Finance for smaller businesses

A feature of 1977 has been the general recognition of the importance of small businesses to the economy as a whole. The Midland is well placed to assist this sector.

Further expansion overseas

The Bank's International Division has enjoyed a further expansion in foreign currency lending and has consolidated its market share. An important factor in developing this side of the Midland's business has been the additional investment in business abroad and continued

extension of overseas representation. In 1977, offices were opened in Cairo, Madrid and Manila while the Tokyo office is due to be upgraded to a full branch in April 1978.

Specialised finance

Although the overdraft is the traditional form of the Bank's lending, and still remains the most used method of borrowing, constant efforts have been made over the years to adapt services to the changing needs of customers. In particular, there has been a pronounced move from short-term lending to specific medium-term finance and, more recently, to the provision of equity finance.

The Nationalisation Debate

The Bank joined the other London and Scottish banks in sponsoring a publicity campaign designed to increase public awareness that the Labour Party had formally adopted plans to nationalise the largest four clearing banks. During the campaign over 50,000 members of the public accepted the invitation to write in expressing a view on the issue. 90% were opposed to nationalisation.

A loyal worldwide staff

The Group now employs almost 65,000 people around the world and it is through their efforts and skill that we have earned a reputation which we believe to be second to none.

1977 Group Results in Brief

	£000's
Profit before taxation	192,830
Taxation	104,915
Attributable profit (after extraordinary items and minority interests)	82,470
Shareholders' dividends	20,066
Retained profit	62,404

If you would like a copy of Lord Armstrong's full Statement and the Report for 1977, please write to: The Secretary, Midland Bank Limited, Head Office, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BA.



Midland Bank Group

Offshore

TELLS
COTCH WHISKY
Here ye go

Stock Exchange Prices

Speculative features

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, April 3. Dealings End, April 14. Contango Day, April 17. Settlement Day, April 25.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

John Smith

City Offices

Hampton & Sons

01-236 7831

STOCKS									
Code	Company	Price	Change	Code	Company	Price	Change	Code	Company
100	100	100		200	200	200		300	300
400	400	400		500	500	500		600	600
700	700	700		800	800	800		900	900
1100	1100	1100		1200	1200	1200		1300	1300
1400	1400	1400		1500	1500	1500		1600	1600
1700	1700	1700		1800	1800	1800		1900	1900
2100	2100	2100		2200	2200	2200		2300	2300
2400	2400	2400		2500	2500	2500		2600	2600
2700	2700	2700		2800	2800	2800		2900	2900
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8400	8400	8400		8500	8500	8500		8600	8600
8700	8700	8700		8800	8800	8800		8900	8900
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10100	10100	10100		10200	10200	10200		10300	10300
10400	10400	10400		10500	10500	10500		10600	10600
10700	10700	10700		10800	10800	10800		10900	10900
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12400	12400	12400		12500	12500	12500		12600	12600
12700	12700	12700		12800	12800	12800		12900	12900
13100	13100	13100		13200	13200	13200		13300	13300
13400	13400	13400		13500	13500	13500		13600	13600
13700	13700	13700		13800	13800	13800		13900	13900
14100	14100	14100		14200	14200	14200		14300	14300
14400	14400	14400		14500	14500	14500		14600	14600
14700	14700	14700		14800	14800	14800		14900	14900
15100	15100	15100		15200	15200	15200		15300	15300
15400	15400	15400		15500	15500	15500		15600	15600
15700	15700	15700		15800	15800	15800		15900	15900
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16400	16400	16400		16500	16500	16500		16600	16600
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22400	22400	22400		22500	22500	22500		22600	22600
22700	22700	22700		22800	22800	22800		22900	22900
23100	23100	23100		23200	23200	23200		23300	23300
23400	23400	23400		23500	23500	23500		23600	23600
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24700	24700	24700		24800	24800	24800		24900	24900
25100	25100	25100		25200	25200	25200		25300	25300
25400	25400	25400		25500	25500	25500		25600	25600
25700	25700	25700		25800	25800	25800		25900	25900
26100	26100	26100		26200	26200	26200		26300	26300
26400	26400	26400		26500	26500	26500		26600	26600
26700	26700	26700		26800	26800	26800		26900	26900
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29700	29700	29700		29800	29800	29800		29900	29900
30100	30100	30100		30200	30200	30200		30300	30300
30400	30400	30400		30500	30500	30500		30600	30600
30700	30700	30700		30800	308				

General Vacancies

ACQUISITIONS EDITOR

In order to sustain our rapid growth we wish to appoint an experienced Acquisitions Editor to develop our publishing programme for professional markets.

The successful candidate will be asked to build a list of new publications for the tax, finance and accountancy communities and for other professional groups.

We believe that this is an outstanding opportunity for an Editor whose talents and interests are motivated by great creative growth.

A competitive starting salary will be paid according to age and experience and this will not be an obstacle. The terms and conditions of employment are excellent.

Please apply in confidence to Oliver Freeman, Director, O.F. Publishing Ltd., Norwich House, 11-13 Norwich Street, London EC4A 1AB. Telephone 01-404 5721.

Recently Qualified Accountant

Salary c. £5,500 p.a.

A well-known City Investment Trust requires a newly qualified Accountant to join their Accounts Department dealing with portfolio investments, taxation and property investments, etc. The successful applicant will be aged between 23-30 and will respond directly to the Group Accountant, in whose absence he would be expected to deputise in addition to the salary there is a Non-Contributory Pension and Life Assurance Scheme; assistance on Mortgage Facilities; Free BUPA cover and Top Up lunch vouchers per day.

Hours: 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Holidays: 4 weeks.

Please apply in writing in strictest confidence to:—

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£6,500+

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BOX 1223 K, THE TIMES.

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The work consists of comparing prices of a wide range of goods and services. These are then reported to the management and used to help in the selection of goods and services to be sold. Applicants should have a good standard of education, a good commercial background and be able to communicate well in writing.

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GRADUATE FOR CITY ASSOC.

attends committees, visits, interviews, etc. The successful candidate will be aged between 23 and 30 and will respond directly to the Group Accountant, in whose absence he would be expected to deputise in addition to the salary there is a Non-Contributory Pension and Life Assurance Scheme; assistance on Mortgage Facilities; Free BUPA cover and Top Up lunch vouchers per day.

Hours: 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Holidays: 4 weeks.

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